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Ann Arbor Observer

August 2026

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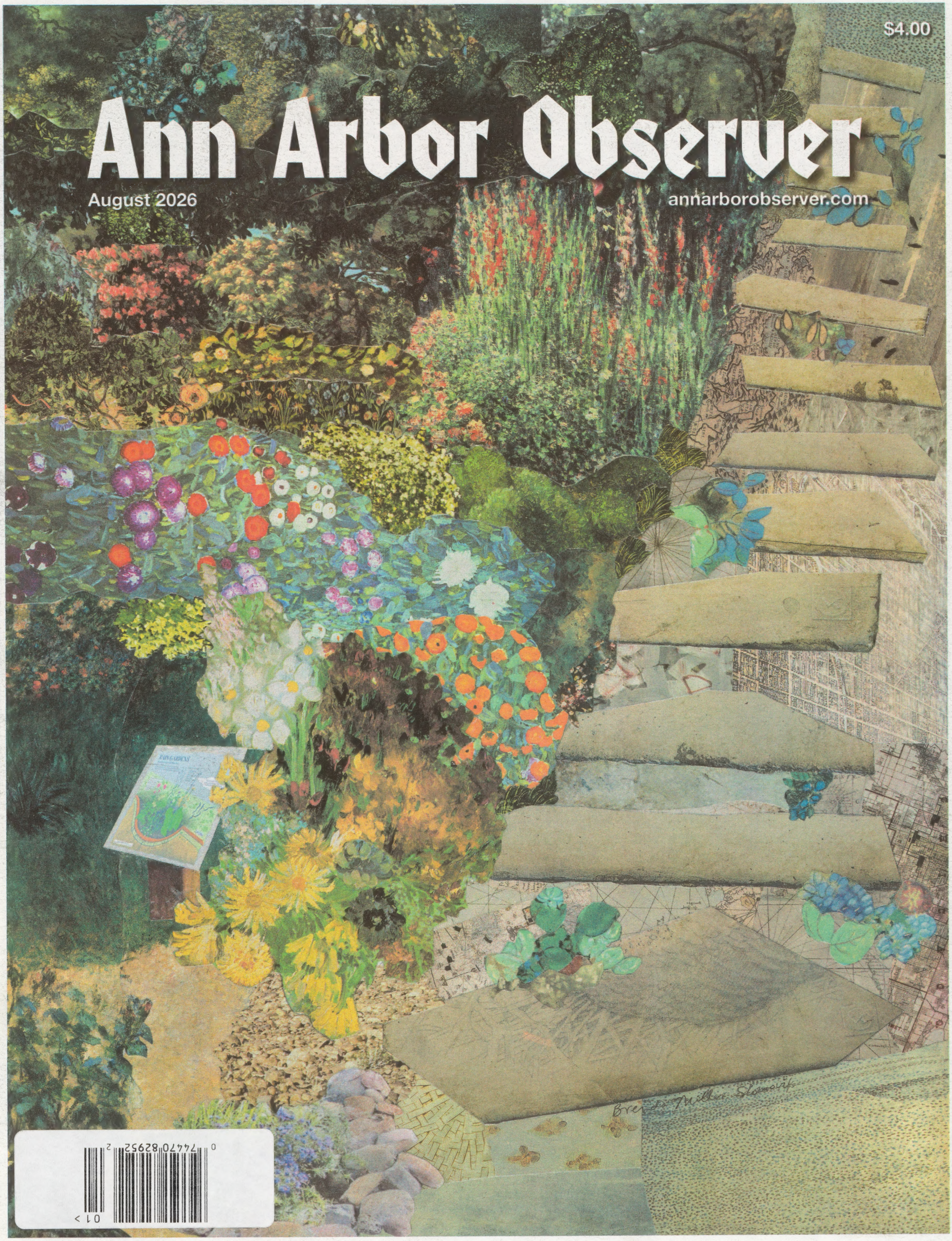

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Advantage Personal Training opens second location in Chelsea

Advantage Personal Training is celebrating the opening of a new studio in Chelsea.

For 14 years, Advantage has helped hundreds of adults get stronger, stay consistent, and get back to living the active lives they actually want (not just survive a workout, but walk out of it feeling like themselves again).

Members of the original Ann Arbor location will tell you it's changed their perception of what a gym could be.

"This place has been a lifeline for me over the last three years," says longtime member Ted Stawikowski. "I know when I go in there that I'm going to get a great workout, be around fun people, and feel better when I walk out the door at the end of the session."

Another member put it simply: "I finally got a personal trainer after trying to do it on my own for a long time. Now I enjoy workouts more, I know I'm getting a program that's right for me, and I'm seeing much better results in less time."

The transformation goes beyond the gym floor. "I feel like a new person — stronger, with better posture, fewer aches and pains, and just more comfortable moving through daily life," says Amie Robison.

For Megan Torrance, it's about something bigger than fitness: "I'm so much stronger and more able to DO what I want to do in life — hiking, working, hockey, gardening... living!"

And for Elizabeth Munteen, it simply comes down to this: "Joining Advantage is life changing… one of the best things I've done for myself in years."

Now this same life-changing experience is available in Chelsea, beginning August 3rd.

To celebrate the launch of Advantage Strength Chelsea, they're giving away **21 days of free personal training**- full access, not a watered-down trial- at either the new Chelsea studio or the original Ann Arbor location.

You would receive a 1-on-1 consultation so they learn more about you and what's most important to you, a personalized program that will meet you where you're at, and 12 personal training sessions to use over the course of 3 weeks.

Spots are limited to the first 10 applications in each location.

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Ann Arbor Public Schools

2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

www.a2schools.org/calendar

First & Last Day

No School

Student Count Day

Not a full day for some students

August 2026

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Mon	Aug 31	First Day of School for Students - Half Day
Fri-Mon	Sep 4-7	No School for Students & Staff (Labor Day Holiday Break)
Tue	Sep 8	School Resumes
Mon	Sep 28	No School for Students; Staff PD
Wed	Oct 7	Student Count Day
Thu	Oct 8	PSAT-NMSQT 11th Grade (Late start for 9, 10, 12)
Fri-Mon	Oct 9-12	No School for Students & Staff (Early Fall Break)
Tue	Oct 13	School Resumes
Fri	Oct 30	Elem, K-8, Middle School half day (Report Writing); full day for High School
Tue	Nov 3	No School for Students & Staff (Election Day)
Fri-Tue	Nov 20-24	Pathways & Skyline Trimester Exams
Wed-Fri	Nov 25-27	No School for Students & Staff (Late Fall Break)
Mon	Nov 30	School Resumes
Wed	Dec 9	No School for Students; Staff PD
Mon-Fri	Dec 21-Jan 1	No School for Students & Staff (Winter Break)
Mon	Jan 4	School Resumes
Mon	Jan 18	No School for Students & Staff (MLK Day)
Tue-Fri	Jan 19-22	Community, Huron & Pioneer Semester Exams
Wed	Feb 10	Student Count Day
Fri-Mon	Feb 12-15	No School for Students & Staff (Mid-Winter Break)
Tue	Feb 16	School Resumes
Tue	Mar 9	Elem, K-8, Middle School half day (Report Writing); full day for High School
Thu-Mon	Mar 11-15	Pathways & Skyline Trimester Exams
Fri-Fri	Mar 26-Apr 2	No School for Students & Staff (Spring Break)
Mon	Apr 5	School Resumes
Thu	Apr 8	PSAT 8th & 9th Grade; WIN Work Readiness 11th Grade (Late start 6,7,10,12)
Wed	Apr 14	SAT 11th Grade; PSAT 10th Grade (Late start 9,12)
Mon	Apr 26	Transition Day for 8th Grade; Half day for High School Students
Thu	Apr 29	Transition Day for 5th Grade; Half day for Middle School Students
Tue	May 4	No School for Students; Staff PD (Election Day)
Thu	May 13	Elem & K-8 half day (Report Writing); full day for Middle & High School
Mon	May 31	No School for Students & Staff (Memorial Day)
Fri-Tue	Jun 11-15	Community, Huron & Pioneer Semester Exams
Fri-Tue	Jun 11-15	Pathways & Skyline Trimester Exams
Tue	Jun 15	Half day for Middle School Students (MS/HS Exam Grading/Report Writing)
Wed	Jun 16	Last Day of School for All Students - Half Day

Note: Preschools and A2Virtual follow slightly different calendar.
See school websites for information.

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	Drop Off Time	School Starts	Regular School Day Ends	First Day & Half-Days School Ends	Last School Day Ends
Huron/Pioneer/Skyline	7:53 AM	8:00 AM	2:51 PM	11:00 AM	9:40 AM
Community	7:53 AM	8:00 AM	2:57-3:50 PM*	11:00 AM	9:40 AM
Pathways	7:53 AM	8:00 AM	2:56 PM	11:00 AM	9:40 AM
Middle School	8:03 AM	8:15 AM	3:03 PM	11:15 AM	10:45 AM
K-8 (AA Open & A2 STEAM)	8:03 AM	8:15 AM	3:18 PM	11:15 AM	10:50 AM
Elementary (K-5)	8:43 AM	8:50 AM	3:53 PM	11:50 AM	11:35 AM
Westerman & Mitchell PK**	8:15 AM	8:25 AM	3:48 PM	11:25 AM	--

*PM times vary based on student schedules.

**Applies to Westerman and Mitchell PK only - see specific school website for PK bell schedule.

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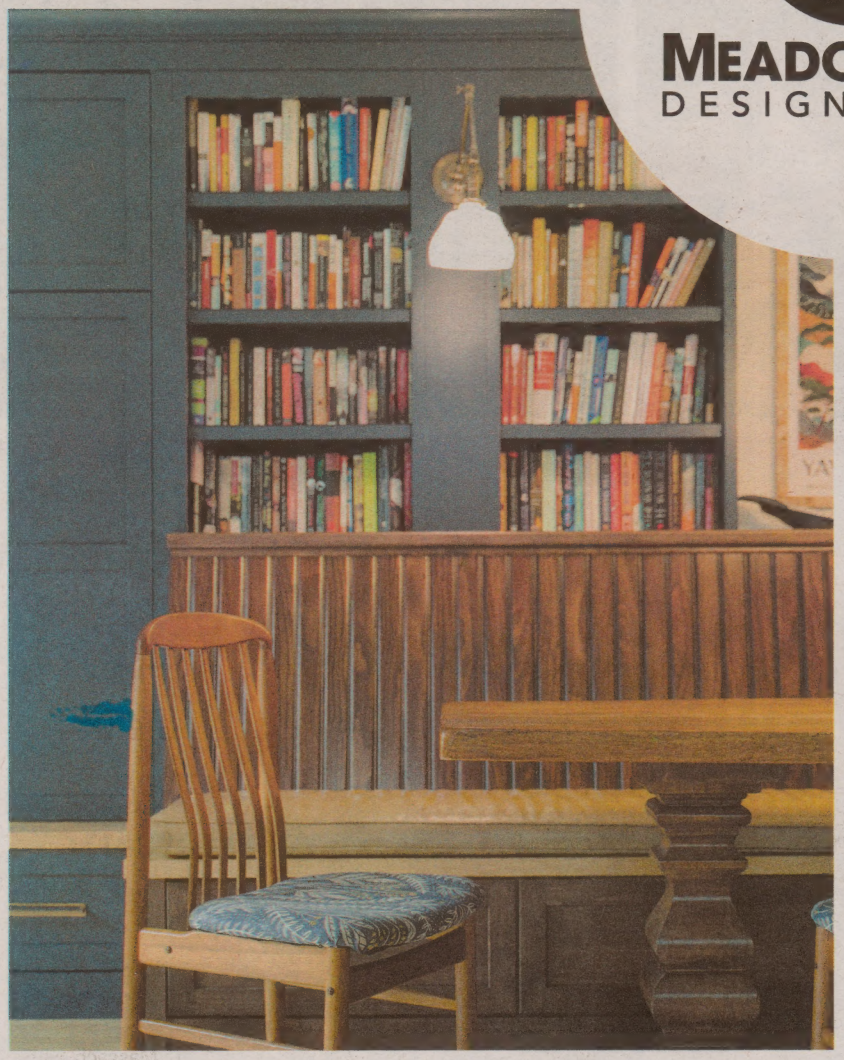

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Pomonapalooza Rocks On: In 2022, neighbors Chris Wolff, Shannon Zager, and Dorothy Gotlib decided to throw a party across their three front yards. It seemed like a fun way to reconnect with their neighborhood after the pandemic. They hired a band and, because they lived on Pomona Rd., called their little event Pomonapalooza. The goal was simple: bring people together and have a good time.

Year one was such a success that it's since expanded to take over a nearby cul-de-sac. Most of the families on this tight-knit, multigenerational street now consider it a high point of their summer calendar. They all pitch in, eager to nurture something that feels connective and special. There's even a tradition of designing annual T-shirts which, as seven-year-old Pomonapalooza regular Violet Kurlander says, "keeps the party rolling."

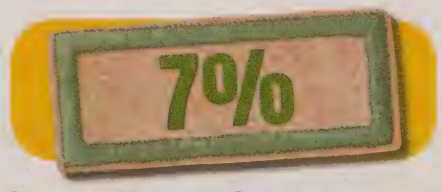
Their outreach is refreshingly old-school: flyers are distributed to mailboxes, signs appear in yards, and the grapevine does its thing. Everybody knows about it and no one wants to miss it.

For a cozy neighborhood party, Pomonapalooza's entertainment roster is impressive. They've hosted rock, R&B, and folk bands, beat bucket drummers, U-M baton twirlers, and members of the Detroit Circus. Last year, the fire department showed off one of their ladder trucks. The food scene is equally robust, with its mix of potluck contributions and local food trucks.

For the first few years, it was a self-sponsored event with about eight families covering the basic costs and accepting donations to hopefully make a little bit of it back. Last year, says Zager, their attitude changed. "With all of the transition and budget cuts going on in Washington, we thought, should we turn this into a fundraiser?" Realizing they had a platform to do some good beyond their own neighborhood, they chose Community Action Network, a local nonprofit serving families in under-resourced neighborhoods, as their beneficiary.

Like before, the families cover the costs of throwing the party, but now, any money that comes in goes straight to CAN. Through QR codes, donation jars, and their kids lemonade stand, they were able to raise almost $2,500 in 2025. Separate from Pomonapalooza, they mounted a similarly successful fundraiser for Food Gatherers. Says Gotlib, "We're just trying to plant the seed that people can make substantial contributions by pooling together resources like this."

—Timothy Monger



Scouts Honored: In 2019, twelve-year-old Maddie Lowen found herself at a remote campsite in Waterloo, Michigan, figuring out how to make chicken noodle soup in below-zero temperatures with four girls she'd met a week before.

This experience might have deterred the typical tween from continuing the Scout program, but not Lowen and the other girls of Ann Arbor's BSA Scout Troop 5. All five have either earned their Eagle Scout rank or will do so by the end of 2026—a notable accomplishment, given that nationwide only around 7 percent of scouts earn this honor.

In 2018, Boy Scouts of America began allowing girls to participate; Lowen, Aaralyn Huhn, Neila Shee, Anna Stenger, and Juno Ryan formed the inaugural girls troop.

"The reason why we've all Eagled, is because that core relationship that we made is just so strong," says Lowen, who is now a rising sophomore at U-M.

Eagle Scout is the highest youth ranking in Scouting BSA; it usually takes between five to seven years and represents the culmination of merit badges, scout-led service projects, and a final presentation delivered to a community review board.

"There was this kind of built-up demand for girls who knew about it," says Troop 5 Committee Chairman Paul Reed. "This first group that came in was highly motivated."

"I also think that there's something particularly special about being the kind of girl that wants to join a group of guys," Lowen says. "You definitely need to have a certain level of commitment and grit."

Lowen says that in college, she's applying the lessons she learned from her accomplishments in Scouts to her extracurriculars, including serving as an Air Force cadet at the ROTC unit.

"It really taught me that I'm capable of doing really hard things," she says. "… Scouts is foundational for how I define my leadership style and the kind of person I want to be in the world."

As an organization, Lowen says, BSA has become more accepting since she joined. When visiting other camps across the country, Troop 5 was often the only program with female scouts. Today, Scout Troop 5 boasts around twenty-three female scouts, and all-female troops have formed in Dexter, Ypsilanti, and Saline.

—Lucy Langerveld

Tough Break Hotel: Entrepreneur Joe Barbat bought the historic but decrepit Montgomery Ward Building at 210–216 S. Fourth Ave. in 2013. He originally planned to add four stories and turn it into a condo complex, then changed his strategy to apartment rentals. But construction took longer than expected, and the units still weren't ready in time for move-in, eliciting a flurry of 1-star online reviews from tenants complaining about management and building malfunctions.

They wouldn't be the last.

In May 2022, the building was sold to Blue Suede Hospitality Group, which that October unveiled its new vision for the apartments: an "unstaffed hotel" called Exhibit A2. "Check in digitally and head straight to your suite," its website promised. "No front desk, just seamless access."

But the reviews told a different story. After a smattering of 4- to 5-star experiences in 2023, the hotel's rating deteriorated to 2.4 stars on Trip Advisor and 2.7 on Yelp.

The reviews detail noise complaints, spotty Wi-Fi, elevator issues, dismissed complaints, bait-and-switch bookings, and sketchy payment and confirmation methods (one guest was asked to text a picture of their credit card).

"You get to the hotel? You're locked outside. You get to the elevator? Your code doesn't work. You get to your room door? Again the code doesn't work," wrote Bill W. in March 2025. "My favorite part was Calling the number they provide for assistance and having the person tell me that this was 'a nontraditional hotel' as if being nontraditional somehow makes it OK that I can neither use the elevator or the door to my room."

Some reviews are so outlandish, they feel straight out of a sitcom. "I have never had a more frustrating experience in my life than the one I had trying to check in and get access codes," shared Lauren R. in May 2025. "I have FIFTY-SEVEN texts back and forth with Exhibit A2 trying to enter my credit card for identification."

During two separate stays at Exhibit A2, Nicole Q. witnessed gunshots, brawls, and police raids. "There wasn't a single staff member on site to help. On our way out that night, we witnessed blood on the walls and ceilings of the halls and elevator. It was horrific." According to the police report, a caller reported that a male shot himself in the hand, and he was taken to U-M Hospital. Exhibit A2 refunded 20 percent of Nicole's stay.

That story, shared November 23, 2025, would be the hotel's final review; it closed on December 31.

Kaylan Mitchell, who owns the Getup Vintage in the building's first-floor commercial space, says for the first few weeks of January, half a dozen people came into her shop looking for answers. "They handled everything awfully—straight canceled January reservations and pretty much up and left very abruptly."

Mitchell says Blue Suede, who was also her landlord, is in the process of selling the building to Chicago-based Breneman Capital. Interim property manager Cabrio Properties is managing the building in the meantime.

And the hotel suites? They're back to being available as apartments for rent.

Read an unabridged version of this piece on our website.

—Ally Choi

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ILLUSTRATIONS: TABI WALTERS

Community Organizations Across Southeast Michigan Gain Life-Saving Cardiac Response Resources

$30,000 in grants from American Heart Association and Trinity Health bring training, AEDs and response planning to six community organizations

The American Heart Association, a relentless force changing the future of health for everyone everywhere, and Trinity Health Ann Arbor and Trinity Health Livingston, will provide six local organizations with funding and resources to implement Cardiac Emergency Response Plans (CERP).

A Cardiac Emergency Response Plan is a simple, written plan that helps a team respond quickly and effectively during a cardiac emergency. Key elements include identifying a designated cardiac emergency response team, training staff and volunteers in CPR and AED use, ensuring access to an automated external defibrillator (AED), practice drills to stay prepared, coordination with local EMS and annual review and updates.

The six organizations receiving funding and technical support to strengthen their emergency preparedness are:

The Ivy Table: A café and event rental space in Livingston County offering a pay-what-you-can pricing model to ensure access to meals for individuals experiencing food insecurity.

Chilson Hills Church: A local faith-based organization serving Livingston County through outreach and engagement.

Howell Chamber of Commerce Foundation: A nonprofit organization that receives and administers funds for educational, cultural, scientific and charitable purposes to promote public welfare.

Growing Hope: A Washtenaw County organization operating MarketPlace Hall, home to the Ypsilanti Farmers Market, indoor winter markets, community meals, youth programming and public events.

FedUp Ministries: A mobile nonprofit organization in Washtenaw County that delivers meals, laundry and shower services to individuals facing food insecurity and systemic economic challenges.

Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum: A hands-on science and learning center focused on sparking curiosity and promoting science literacy for children and adults.

Three CERPs will be funded by Trinity Health Ann Arbor and Trinity Health Livingston at $5,000 each (The Ivy Table, Chilson Hill Church and Howell Chamber of Commerce) and three CERPs will be funded by the American Heart Association at $5,000 each (Growing Hope, FedUP Ministries and Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum) for total support of $30,000.

American Heart Association staff will provide technical support to all six organizations, including conducting a needs assessment, creating a custom plan for each organization, coordinating CPR and AED training, purchase of an AED, conducting practice drills and connecting organizations with local EMS teams. Together, these efforts aim to improve community readiness, strengthen the chain of survival and ultimately save lives when seconds matter most.

"Every second counts during a cardiac emergency," Mallory Applewhite, Community Impact VP, American Heart Association – Southeast Michigan said. *"We are proud to expand our Nation of Lifesavers in Washtenaw County by increasing access to AEDs and providing CPR and Hands-Only CPR training. Together, we are empowering community members with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to take action when it matters most and help save lives."*

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Seeking a Check on U-M's Expansion

Lawmakers confront the university over its land and construction plans.

In 1901, U-M faced rapid overcrowding and needed to expand the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts. Its solution: buy a building from the city.

According to the Bentley Historical Library, the university spent $16,000 to purchase the 1st Ward School, which was renamed West Hall and used for classes in English, modern languages, and forestry.

For decades, U-M continued scooping up Washtenaw County properties and expanding its footprint without much resistance—until some recent moves incurred the wrath of Michigan politicians.

In late June, three Democratic state reps—Jason Morgan and Morgan Foreman of Ann Arbor and Jimmie Wilson of Ypsilanti—introduced legislation that would require university officials to follow local zoning requirements and ordinances. This followed U-M's announcement in May that it would purchase the 140-acre Concordia University campus for $60 million. Because the university has legal autonomy on land purchases, the move did not require local input. (U-M has since approved plans for a new $175 million library facility on the property.)

Also in late June, Democratic congresswoman Debbie Dingell wrote a letter demanding answers over U-M's plan, with Los Alamos National Laboratories, to build a $1.25 billion high performance computing center in Ypsilanti Twp. Her letter, directed to U-M president Domenico Grasso and Los Alamos laboratory director Thom Mason, followed a June 16 Ypsilanti Twp. board of trustees meeting in which they voted to formally oppose construction on either of the proposed sites: 124 acres on Textile Rd. along the Huron River, which U-M purchased in March, or the Willow Run Complex near the West Willow neighborhood.

JEREMY HERLICZEK

State reps Morgan Foreman (left) and Jason Morgan of Ann Arbor on the House floor. Their legislation would force U-M to follow local zoning rules.

Morgan, who is leading the legislative effort in Lansing, says he's alarmed that U-M has purchased more than 300 acres in Washtenaw County in the past two years, at a time when Ann Arbor has struggled to address a significant housing shortage.

"I love U-M, I'm a proud graduate, and I certainly see the incredible value it brings to the state and community every day," Morgan tells the Observer. "That doesn't give it blank permission to ignore the community we call home."

The first measure, House Joint Resolution X, would amend the state constitution to require U-M to comply with local restrictions for all land purchases beginning in 2027. If passed by the legislature, it would go before voters. Morgan and Foreman also introduced two bills, HB 6120 and 6121, that would extend local zoning authority over U-M property purchased in 2027 and beyond.

Morgan says he and his colleagues acted because "there is strong opposition from both communities" to U-M's actions. "The volume of land being purchased is extreme," he says, noting that the Concordia purchase happened without public notice or discussion. He adds that he hopes U-M will invite the city to work in partnership as the Concordia site is developed.

Meanwhile, Dingell wrote in her letter that she was frustrated by U-M's lack of transparency and community engagement with the Ypsilanti computing facility. She went on to share twenty-one questions reflecting concerns from her constituents, giving Grasso and Mason a deadline of July 10 to respond. Among them: What specific benefits would the facility bring to Ypsilanti Twp.?

In their response, Grasso and Mason wrote that U-M "looks forward to working with the township to identify investments that can help deliver concrete benefits across the community" and that it "will work with local leaders and residents to identify opportunities to provide meaningful long-term value to the Ypsilanti Township area community."

Dingell tells the Observer that the response raised more questions than answers. "They owe a town hall and direct conversation with this community," she says.

—Micheline Maynard

A Special Election Turns Weird

Don Wilkerson is running for the very school board seat he vacated in May.

In an exceedingly rare political maneuver, resigned Ann Arbor school board treasurer Don Wilkerson filed in June to run in the November special election called to fill the seat he vacated.

Wilkerson, who says he quit on May 4 to "address some pretty pressing issues," was facing a misdemeanor charge of domestic violence. Now that Washtenaw County prosecutors have dropped the charge, stemming from the incident at the home he once shared with his estranged wife and their children, he says he wants to return to the board.

He asserts the allegation, which he declined to detail, was untrue and leveled in the heat of a bitter divorce. Prosecutors not only dropped the charge against him but agreed to "destroy the arrest record and all corresponding documentation and information," he says. Since 2021, state law has allowed defendants to petition for this when a criminal charge is dismissed before trial or if they are found not guilty. He also has sued his former employer, the Rehmann Group, for wrongful termination on the grounds that state law bars companies from firing people charged but not convicted of misdemeanors.

While Wilkerson is correct that the arrest report, police body-cam footage, and 911 call audio are all now unavailable, the court docket regarding the matter that the Observer reviewed in early July explicitly states that he has not been exonerated. "This dismissal should not be used as evidence that violence did or did not occur," reads a May 28 filing. It also indicates the personal protection order (PPO) preventing him from contacting his wife or being in her vicinity remains in place and warns that if Wilkerson "seeks to terminate PPO before its natural expiration in 2027, the

People may seek to reinstate/reauthorize these charges."

On June 3, the AAPS board voted 4–2 to appoint Steve Norton to serve until the end of 2026. The winner of the special election will be sworn in on January 1, 2027, to serve the remaining two years of the interrupted term.

Norton, in applying for the appointment, said he did not plan to run, but another applicant, John Benson, has filed for the partial term. As of press time, only Wilkerson and Benson were running.

Wilkerson's maneuver is unusual and, in local politics, possibly unprecedented.

Benson, a forty-nine-year-old senior manager of investment operations and governance for the United Auto Workers' pension fund, hopes his finance background can be helpful as the district navigates its fiscal challenges. He understands that Wilkerson has the right to try to return to office but says the decision disregards the laborious process set off by his resignation. The board had to collect and vet applicants for his immediate replacement and then interview candidates who prepared materials for their applications—plus the instigation of a special election.

"It just doesn't feel right to only have the person who just resigned running for it," says Benson, explaining one reason he's running. "Look, maybe he feels like things are in the past already, but when something comes along that could make someone resign and there are schools and the 16,000 kids and all the teachers involved, it's worth asking: is there really no chance that something else could have them happen to need to drop out, you know, this year or next year, right?"

Wilkerson says he's confident there won't be a repeat of his departure. "I wanted to ensure that somebody was able to dedicate the time and focus to the district during this time of need," he says. "I wasn't sure how long I would need to be away or how long I would have to focus on competing priorities. If I had had a crystal ball, maybe I wouldn't have resigned."

The Wilkerson maneuver is highly unusual and, in terms of local politics, possibly unprecedented. An exhaustive search through more than a century of archives of the *Ann Arbor News* found nothing similar, and county clerk Lawrence Kestenbaum, who authors the historical website politicalgraveyard.com, could not recall anything like this in the forty-plus years since he first won an elected office.

Kestenbaum offers three historic examples of someone resigning a seat and then winning an election to replace themselves—all members of Congress.

Two of those cases, one from South Carolina in 1965 and one from Texas in 1983, involved Democrats quitting, changing parties, and then running in special elections as Republicans. In the third case, in 1856, South Carolina congressmember Preston Brooks beat an abolitionist congressmember at his desk with a cane nearly to death, resigned, and won his seat back two weeks later.

—Steve Friess

Encouraging Health Trends

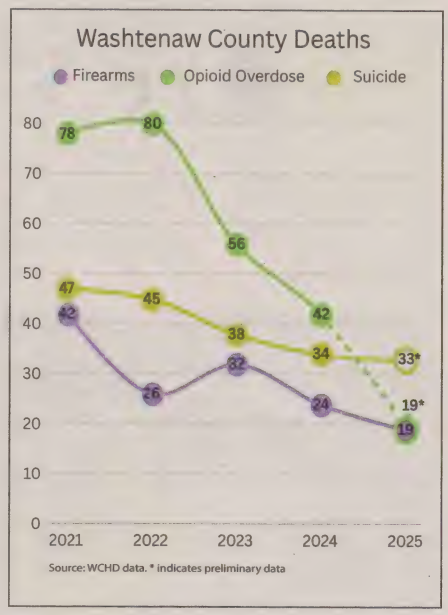
Washtenaw County reports improvements in three crisis areas. The Health Department isn't resting.

In its 2025 annual report, released in late April, the Washtenaw County Health Department announced a promising decline in deaths from opioid overdoses, firearms, and suicides in 2024. Firearm deaths continued to drop in 2025, and preliminary data show a similar trend for opioid overdoses and suicides.

With all three issues nationally recognized as public health crises, why has Washtenaw County been so successful? Beth Ann Hamilton, communications coordinator for WCHD, says the answer isn't as simple as a single policy (or department—there are several local organizations dedicated to these three causes).

"As a local health department, our primary role in each of these spaces is data surveillance, so we track these things, we look at the trends, we report them out," Hamilton says. "And I think because we all have a science perspective, it's really difficult for us to say definitively, like, 'And this is why.'"

To address opioid overdoses, WCHD offers a free Narcan vending machine and holds regular community events to distribute lifesaving tools, such as Narcan and test strips for fentanyl and xylazine.



"I remember going out to events in like 2021, and when we would have Narcan, people would be like, 'What is this? How do you use this? I've never heard of this,'" Hamilton says. These days, "that doesn't happen as often. People come up, and they're like, 'Oh, I have this.'"

WCHD also manages a $16.3 million opioid settlement fund distributed over

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eighteen years; the money is earmarked for local prevention, harm reduction, and treatment efforts, including $2.25 million in grants awarded to local organizations.

To prevent firearm injuries,WCHD works closely with the sheriff's office through its Community Violence Intervention initiative. The two departments analyze local firearm data to identify trends and opportunities for intervention, and collaborate on the WeLIVE program, which supports people impacted by gun violence. WCHD also provides free gun locks.

To support mental health, WCHD in 2024 revamped the #wishyouknew youth mental health campaign that it launched in 2019. The change came after community critiques of the previous messaging, according to Susan Ringler-Cerniglia, program administrator at WCHD.

The recent trends are encouraging, but WCHD is not taking its foot off the gas. If anything, health officials say, the successes demonstrate the importance of continuing such local, community-centered public health efforts.

"None of these are issues that have been solved," Hamilton says. "This is encouraging news for each of these areas, but it also just emphasizes why this work matters, that it can save lives, and that it needs to keep happening."

—Annabelle Ye

Residents Fight the Power—and Win

Activist campaign prompts Consumers Energy to abandon plans for a gas-fired plant in Lima Twp.

Jeff Parness went to Stivers for a beer and left with a mission.

On May 18, *MLive* broke the story that Consumers Energy was planning to build a massive natural gas–fired power plant in Lima Twp. But at a June 1 special meeting of the Lima Twp. board of trustees, Consumers Energy reps assured residents there were no concrete plans—and no connection to "The Barn," the 1.4-gigawatt Oracle-OpenAI data center under construction in nearby Saline Twp.

"I'm sitting there at the bar with all these people who had just come from this meeting, and they all felt like they were lied to, which they were," Parness recalls. "It was like a sneak attack, and that's how these companies do that. They take advantage of what people don't know and try to get it in under the radar. … Townships are like, 'Okay, well, we'll vote no.' But then the next day, as soon as they vote no, they're sued by the company."

MARK BIALEK

Jeff Parness led a campaign to stop a proposed Consumers Energy power plant in Lima Twp. "It was like a sneak attack," he says.

Parness, who lives in Scio Twp., didn't want Ann Arbor to be exposed to the airborne toxins emitted by a natural gas power plant, and believed Consumers Energy was "taking advantage of folks in Lima Township." So he took action.

A native New Yorker, Parness graduated from U-M in 1987 and has worked in the political and corporate worlds. He reached out to his political contacts, including congresswoman Debbie Dingell, and laid out a strategy to publicize the controversy.

On June 6, he created a Facebook page for a group he called Neighbors United Against Noxious Consumers Energy (NUANCE). That same day, he wrote a post directed at Consumers Energy CEO Garrick Rochow.

"I look forward to speaking with you and explaining to you the 'nuance' of what a proposed massive gas powered power plant between Chelsea and Ann Arbor in Lima Township will mean for Consumers [Energy's] reputation and stock price," it reads. "This ain't my first rodeo and I am happy to respectfully work with you to find an alternative location that will not potentially make my neighbors sick and die."

Within two days, the page had 1,400 followers. Within six, Lima Twp. passed a yearlong moratorium on new power plants. And within eight, Rochow was sitting at Parness's kitchen table, where Parness told him power plants belong on brownfields, not farmland.

"I might have lit the fire, but this was a real team effort from the entire community," says Parness. "That legal moratorium that Lima Township passed, in addition to disclosing where [Consumers Energy officials] were not truthful with their intentions and with their timing, all of that really brought Garrick to the table."

The battle was won on July 1, when Consumers Energy released a statement saying that "Consumers Energy will not move forward with the proposed plant in Lima Township … We recognize that our communication fell short to the Lima Township community to address their

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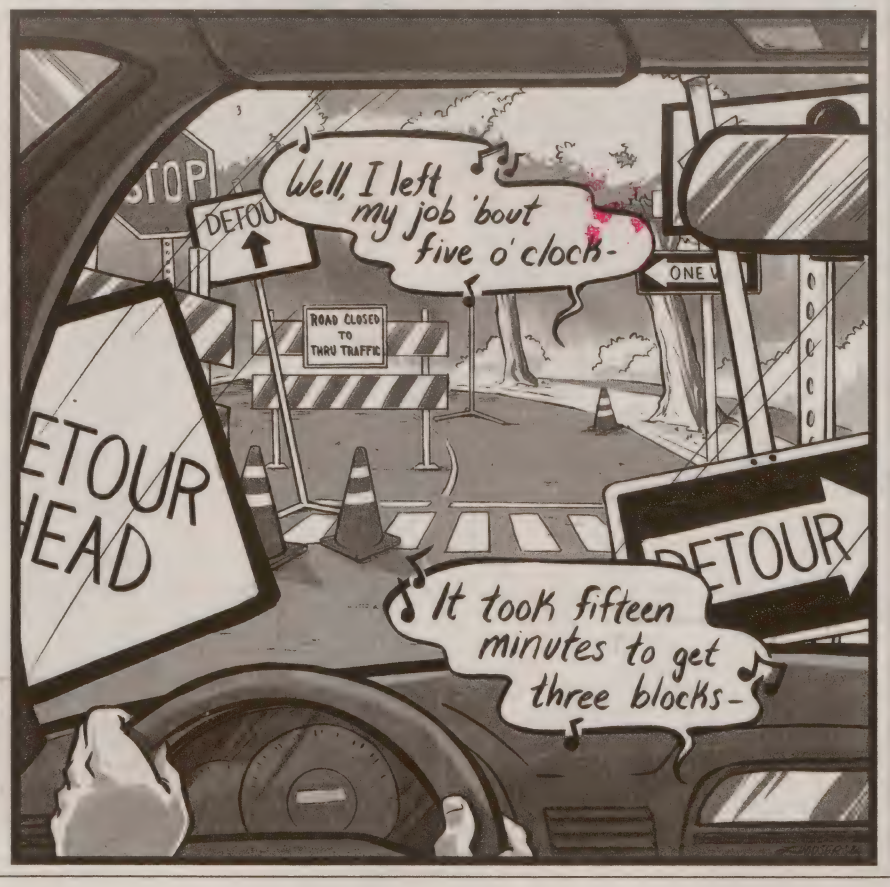

Inside Ann Arbor: *Power*

concerns about the project and apologize for that." The statement maintains there was no connection between the proposed plant and The Barn.

"I think the lesson is grassroots activism works if it's done strategically, if it's done thoughtfully, if it's done respectfully, and without the rancor ..." says Parness. "I only hope that all the other communities fighting these battles could take those lessons, and pressure their townships and pressure their city councils to pause, call a moratorium, until you can make sure your ordinances are in line with the values of the community."

—Trilby MacDonald, with reporting by Brooke Black

All Rise for a Notoriously Tough Boss

On the anniversary of Ruth Bader Ginsburg's August 1993 Supreme Court appointment, we share stories from four Ann Arborites who clerked for the legendary judge.

U-M law professor **Richard Primus,** who began clerking at SCOTUS in 1999, found RBG "intensely disciplined"—she often worked past midnight. "We used to say she was a very flexible boss," he says jokingly. "She didn't care which twenty-three hours we worked." But, he adds, "it was a privilege to do that work."

Clerks from different political parties bonded on the top-floor basketball court, nicknamed "the highest court." Primus recalls one day when RBG needed her clerks to make some changes to a case.

"I asked, 'What time do you want this back?' She asked, 'What time is basketball?' I told her, and she smiled and said, 'Forty-five minutes after basketball.' … She was aware that if she gave us an hour to exercise and blow off steam at 3 p.m., we'd be fresh at 9 p.m."

Jonathan Weinberg, who teaches law at Wayne State, clerked for RBG in 1983–84 at the D.C. Court of Appeals. Recalling his interview, he says, "neither one of us was at that time very good at small talk. She would ask a question briefly, and I would answer the question briefly, and there would be a long pause." Another question. Another answer. Another pause. "Apparently on that basis, she decided I was her sort of person."

Soon after her three clerks arrived, Weinberg remembers, RBG took them on a tour of the district's correctional facility. "She wanted the people who were assisting her to understand what was at stake."

Weinberg describes RBG as a "hands-on judge who didn't suffer fools. … If she didn't think a clerk was performing adequately, she would do all of the clerk's work herself." When a clerk was doing excellent work? "You might send a draft of an opinion and find that she had already written it herself."

U-M law and philosophy prof **Scott Hershovitz,** who clerked at SCOTUS for RBG in 2006–07, says it was "the best job I ever had and the hardest job I ever had."

Clerks wrote memos to help RBG prepare for cases. After a clerk perfected a draft, she would sit down with them to make changes. "There was a lot of red ink, but by the end of the year, you could see your progress," says Hershovitz.

As exacting as she was, Hershovitz admired her ability to make friends across

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Jan has been a part of Ann Arbor's sustainability leadership for decades, focusing on sustainable building design as Senior Principal at A3C Collaborative Architecture, and ultimately launching the Washtenaw 2030 District in 2018. Jan leads the District's support for the unique challenges of decarbonizing municipal, multifamily, and commercial buildings, key parts of Ann Arbor's A²ZERO Plan.

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COURTESY OF RICHARD PRIMUS

Richard Primus (second from left) with his fellow clerks and Ruth Bader Ginsburg on the steps of the Supreme Court. Primus says it was a "privilege" to work for Justice Ginsburg.

Inside Ann Arbor: *RBG*

the political divide, including right-wing justice Antonin Scalia. "Some people are critical of her for that, but it was a genuine friendship," says Hershovitz. "They had worked together on the D.C. circuit and had interests in common—opera, food. It wasn't a strategic friendship."

Washtenaw County prosecutor and Democratic candidate for Michigan attorney general **Eli Savit** clerked for RBG in 2013. Once, he recalls, "we were going back and forth about a case. … I was in the middle of making a point when she looked down at my feet and said 'Your shoes are not tied tightly enough. You are going to trip and fall.'" Her look said the conversation wouldn't continue until he tied his shoes, so he did.

Adds Savit, "In many ways, she reminded me of my Jewish grandmother, if my Jewish grandmother loved opera more than anyone I ever met in my life and was a courageous jurist and a brilliant strategist."

He was particularly inspired by her compassion for those who came before her bench. "What I've taken with me throughout my career is just how much she never lost sight that there are unique human beings with individual stories in every case," Savit reflects. "Someone may have been traumatized, someone else's liberty is at stake. Or in a child custody case, someone's ability to hug a child."

She was also a thoughtful boss. "She cared tremendously and celebrated everybody's birthday," Savit says. They would gather at exactly 4 p.m. to enjoy cupcakes and gifts, "and exactly at 5 o'clock it was back to work."

—Brooke Black and Davi Napoleon

calls & letters

Crime Map Misdemeanor

At least two readers noticed that the icons on the July 2026 Crime Map didn't correspond with the numbers in the Crime Totals box. The June map was accidentally sent to the printer. The correct map is at annarborobserver.com/crime-map/may-2026.

Sizing Up K College

The July 2026 Inside Ann Arbor "Political Ambitions, Made in Ann Arbor" claimed that when Eli Savit attended Kalamazoo College, it had 2,400 students. Its enrollment was actually around 1,300.

The Sixteenth President

In our July 2026 Inside Ann Arbor, "The Hottest Seat on Campus," we identified Domenico Grasso as U-M's interim president. In May, Grasso was formally appointed as U-M's sixteenth president, though the search continues for his successor. Additionally, the article states: "Before he withdrew from U-M, [Kent] Syverud was to receive a base annual salary of $2 million, plus retirement benefits and housing." Syverud did not withdraw from the U-M; he was appointed as a tenured faculty member at the law school and special advisor to the Board of Regents. He will still receive the $2 million salary, plus standard benefits.

An Oversight for the Ages

Scarlett London's pleasant piece on Margaret Laird ("A Century in Ann Arbor," June 2026) states in an aside that Margaret Otto was Ann Arbor's oldest-ever resident. Mrs. Otto passed in 1948 at age 103 and may well have been the longest-living resident at the time, but others have outlived her since, including my great-aunt Agnes Warren who passed in 2015 at age 108. Mrs. Warren was born in Scotland in 1906, emigrated with her family to the U.S. in 1909, and married and moved to Ann Arbor in 1937, living here for seventy-eight years. She and her husband Eric raised six children and owned a business here. Aunt Agnes was well-known as an accomplished piano player, playing throughout her life. From age eighty-four to 104 she performed at senior residences and other local venues, bringing joy to others, and was honored several times as a "Volunteer of the Year."

—Her grandniece Pam

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Would You Rather Find a Tumor When It's the Size of a Pencil Eraser... Or a Softball? The Cold, Hard Truth About "Reactive" Medicine

What if something sinister is silently growing inside you right now, waiting to strike? Before he passed, Dr. Warren Ringold left behind a legacy—and a warning—for the rest of us about the 'Dirty Little Secret' of modern healthcare.

The Gap in Modern Medicine: Reactive vs. Proactive

(Southfield, MI) In a city defined by world-class research and intellectual curiosity, residents of the Greater Ann Arbor area are used to having the best data at their fingertips. But when it comes to personal health, many are discovering a critical "blind spot" in the standard medical model.

While Ann Arbor is a hub for medical excellence, the traditional healthcare system is fundamentally reactive. Most diagnostic tests are only ordered *after* you feel a symptom. However, as the late Dr. Warren Ringold—a respected family physician for 40 years—tragically discovered, waiting for symptoms is often too late.

Dr. Ringold felt perfectly healthy until a sudden onset of shortness of breath revealed Stage 4 cancer. Tumors the size of softballs had been growing silently inside him, completely undetected by his regular physicals. His legacy became a warning: "Once you have symptoms, cancer is usually advanced."

The Statistics You Should Know

For a community that values data, the numbers are sobering:

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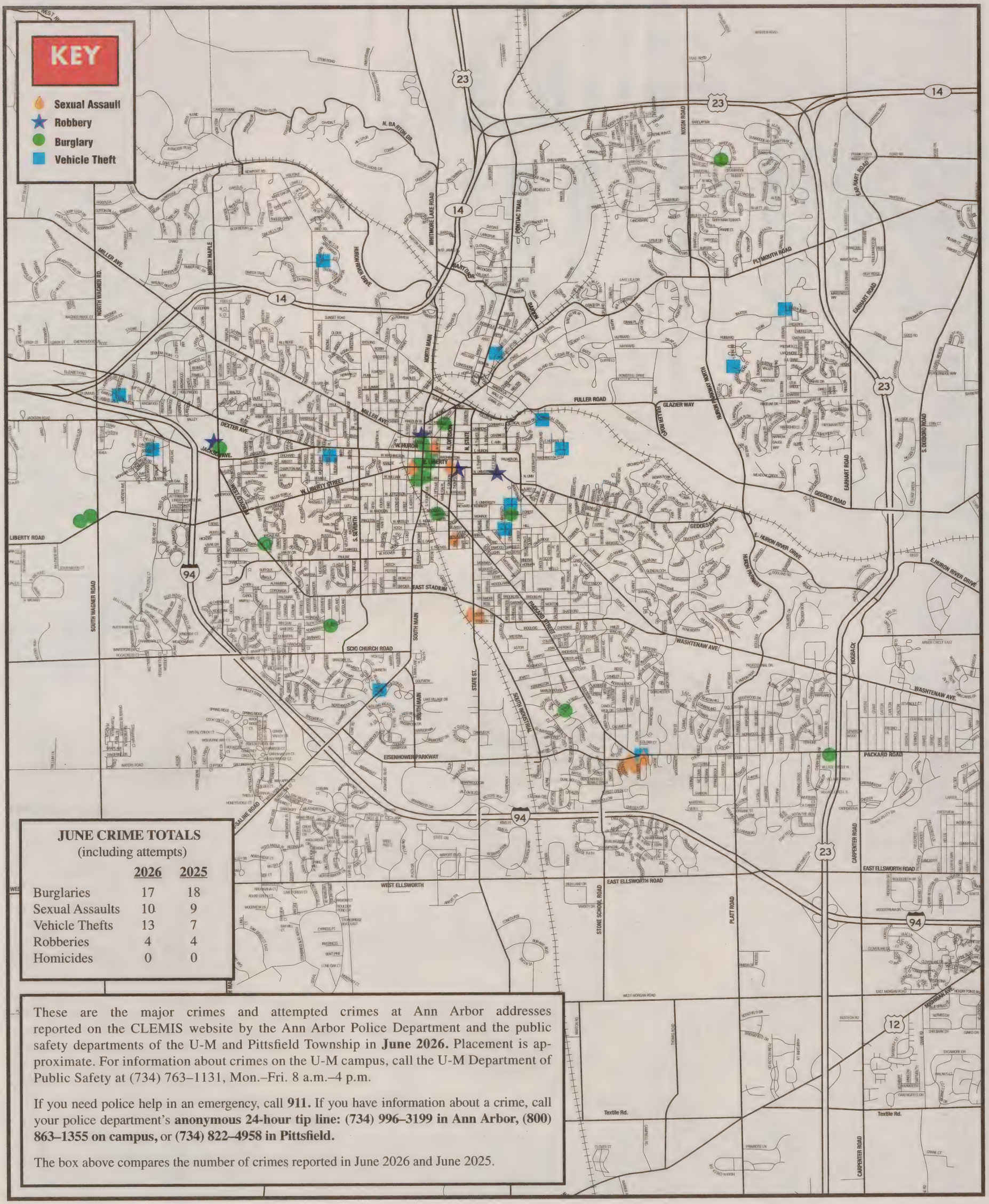

JUNE CRIME TOTALS
(including attempts)

	2026	2025
Burglaries	17	18
Sexual Assaults	10	9
Vehicle Thefts	13	7
Robberies	4	4
Homicides	0	0

These are the major crimes and attempted crimes at Ann Arbor addresses reported on the CLEMIS website by the Ann Arbor Police Department and the public safety departments of the U-M and Pittsfield Township in **June 2026.** Placement is approximate. For information about crimes on the U-M campus, call the U-M Department of Public Safety at (734) 763–1131, Mon.–Fri. 8 a.m.–4 p.m.

If you need police help in an emergency, call **911.** If you have information about a crime, call your police department's **anonymous 24-hour tip line: (734) 996–3199 in Ann Arbor, (800) 863–1355 on campus,** or **(734) 822–4958 in Pittsfield.**

The box above compares the number of crimes reported in June 2026 and June 2025.

LET'S PLAY OUTSIDE.

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Chasing the Sky Disc

HAC Ultimate carries on the spirit of the game.

COURTESY OF TOM LITOW

Neither snow nor heat nor holidays stop players from showing up for weekly games organized by HAC Ultimate, which has been meeting regularly for forty years. Extreme cold, though, can be an obstacle. "At ten below zero," says longtime member John Arkison, a disc that hits the ground "shatters—like porcelain."

On an oven-hot, brutally sunny Sunday, the athletic fields at Fuller Park are alive with several concurrent games of Ultimate Frisbee. In each game, two teams of seven players sprint and dive up and down the field, throwing a disc through the air as they aim to catch it in an end zone to score a point. HAC Ultimate is meeting again, just as they have every week—rain or shine, sun or snow—for decades. "We play in any weather," says longtime member Tom Litow who manages the Google Group that is HAC Ultimate's current online presence.

Though, "at ten below zero, the discs start breaking," adds John Arkison, another longtime member who is HAC Ultimate's "embedded reporter," documenting each meeting in the Google Group, including its conditions and anything interesting that happened. "If you step on it, or it hits the ground, it shatters—like porcelain."

While Litow didn't play during the recent wildfire smoke, he writes in an email, "I would be surprised if at least a few of the younger, immortal players didn't show."

The game that would become Ultimate Frisbee was in born in 1968 at Columbia High School in Maplewood, New Jersey, when students Buzzy Hellring, Jonny Hines, and Joel Silver (now a Hollywood producer) cobbled together the rules for a new team sport played with a Frisbee, based on a similar game Silver learned at summer camp, which was itself based on football. The first Ultimate Frisbee games were held in the school's parking lot—and games are still played there every week, according to a 2025 *New York Times* article.

These days, Ultimate Frisbee (the sport is officially called *Ultimate,* to avoid copyright issues with the Wham-O corporation) is as legitimate a sport as any other, with millions of players—from recreational get-togethers to school teams to professional leagues—in the U.S. and abroad.

The Ultimate scene has grown a lot in Ann Arbor, too. There are recreational Ultimate teams for students in the Ann Arbor Public Schools, and for community members through the nonprofit Ann Arbor Ultimate. "Part of [the popularity] is just it being better known," says Litow. "And part of it is that there's something about Ann Arbor culture. It would be nice to say that we were part of that."

According to veteran group member Charles Griffith, HAC Ultimate has been meeting since at least 1985. It was originally affiliated with the Homeless Action Committee, which fought for affordable housing in Ann Arbor. (Its advocacy led to the creation of Avalon Housing.) Its earliest membership included local activists Judah Garber and Gus Teschke.

Teschke "was a political guy," says Griffith, and HAC Ultimate had a political bent in those earliest days. "He got pushback from people that didn't want to make it political, especially when somebody did disagree. It started controversy, where [some members said,] 'Hey, guys, we just want to have fun and play.'"

Even after the actual Homeless Action Committee dissolved in the late 1990s as its members shifted to other organizations, the name of the Ultimate club stuck. Competitive games met, and continue to meet, on Tuesday and Thursday evenings at Burns Park. Its more laid-back Sunday iteration, currently at Fuller Park, originally met on Mitchell Field.

Observer staff have long been tickled by a detail in the monthly HAC Ultimate calendar listing: "overly competitive players will be politely asked to leave." The stipulation dates back to Teschke's leadership; HAC Ultimate has always aimed for inclusivity. "One thing that always bothered me is arrogant players, people who walk on the field and believe they're better than anybody else," says Litow. "You can walk on the field [with HAC Ultimate], and it's mellow. People aren't gonna be crazy.

"Well—some people are," he says, laughing. "But they've been spoken to."

There are no referees in Ultimate—ever. Instead, it's governed by the so-called "spirit of the game," the shared responsibility for fair play and mutual respect. And although Ultimate involves teams of players moving toward opposite score zones, it is not a contact sport. All this makes for an easy, friendly atmosphere.

New members tend to discover HAC Ultimate through word of mouth, the Observer calendar (ahem), or an internet search for "pick-up Ultimate in Ann Arbor." People will drop in from all over the place, including abroad. "One guy came here from Germany and stayed here," says Arkison.

You may have noticed the term "veteran" pop up a lot thus far, and it's true that the group has a passionate older membership. But HAC Ultimate is all-ages, and anyone can drop in. When asked about the age-mixing, longtime player John Wright spontaneously quoted Shakespeare (*Antony and Cleopatra,* Act IV, Scene VIII):

What, girl, though grey
Do something mingle with our younger
brown, yet ha' we
A brain that nourishes our nerves, and can
Get goal for goal of youth.

Eventually, a group of younger players drift into the shade. One is Matt Dunwoodie, originally from Cincinnati, who first came to HAC Ultimate when one of his U-M classmates discovered it online. "He and I came and joined together, and just stuck it out." Dunwoodie graduated in 2011. "I suppose that makes it, like, fifteen years I've been playing with these folks." He laughs. "Scary thought."

Claire Masters, a Purdue undergrad from Northville, was back in the area for the summer. "I was just looking for a group to play with," she says. "I was really nervous, but … everyone was instantly really engaging. They seemed really happy to have me out here." Ari Hart, a first-year medical student from the D.C. area, agrees. "It's hard to find a way to meet people that's normal," says Hart. "But Frisbee, in general, is a welcoming kind of community." Alyse Guenther works for U-M but will soon be taking time off to travel. "But I know that when I leave Ann Arbor, if I come back for even just a little bit, and I'm here on a Tuesday, Thursday, or Sunday, I can reunite with a lot of people that I really like," she says.

The devotion to the sport and joy in the community at HAC Ultimate can take on an almost spiritual dimension—in fact, Teschke and some of the other veterans have held solstice gatherings.

"It was like a little ceremony before the game started," says Griffith. "It brought in elements of nature. The pseudo-spiritual part was that we were worshiping the sky disc." The group attached little fireworks to an old Frisbee and let it spin around, then had a snack. "That was our communion.

"It was all tongue-in-cheek, of course," he continues. "But I joke sometimes with my friends—this is my church, 'cause it's a Sunday morning. I do feel like I'm communing with something that I love, that brings me joy."

Litow agrees: "There's something about being on the field that's magical."

—Emily Pinsuwan

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Ann Arborite

Scott Beal

A poet who found his rhythm in teaching.

Like most kids of a certain age, Scott Beal hated poetry.

"Not only did I hate poetry, I was vocal about it," he says "My English teachers knew that I hated poetry, because I made no secret about it."

Beal felt poetry was treated like "a secret code that only your teacher knows the answer to … but you're not smart enough to figure out." Language was fun to him—musical and playful—but the vagaries of academic poems left him annoyed and impatient. "Poets don't just come out and say what they mean. They say 'these curtains are blue' but what they mean is 'I'm so sad.' As a young person, I was like, what kind of jerk writes like that? Just tell me you're sad, you know?"

It was a keen observation—and a little sarcasm—from his ninth grade English teacher that changed his thinking."For someone who hates poetry," the teacher wrote on an essay he'd penned about a Robert Frost poem: "you're not bad at writing about it."

A seed was planted.

> *making a lane change making a phone call*
> *making a decision everything we make takes time*
> *but happens fast*
>
> —from "East Ohio Truckstop,"
> in *The Museum of Americana,* 2012

Skip forward to his senior year in high school and that seed was given a shot of Miracle-Gro, hand-administered by the cool new kid, of course. She "had come from a different school system, where they had poets come to their pep rallies," says Beal, "and so she would carry around with her books by poets voluntarily, not as a homework assignment, which flummoxed me. 'What do you mean you're choosing this stuff?'"

Beal's new friend not only shared her books, but also her cassette tapes of poets reciting and performing their work: Anne Waldman, Allen Ginsberg, poets who were using language in ways that were "electrifying and unexpected." He read and felt and heard different intentions from these writers—poems that weren't just capturing "idyllic, heroic exploits of the past" but instead were about contemporary life and the humans living them. "I felt really supercharged by what was happening in the language in those poems, and I wanted to try it."

Beal tried it, started "taking it seriously," and just kept going.

What started as curiosity became deep scholarship, carrying him through U-M's undergraduate and MFA writing programs in six consecutive years. He credits his momentum to timely prizes, supportive teachers, and strong rapport with his workshop instructors. "It's easier to get invested in something when you are given some confidence that you have a talent for it, right?"

He had some early success—winning a chapbook contest and publishing within a few years of graduating, writing consistently. But between being newly married, taking a business writing job, and having two children, Beal experienced an unanticipated break from poetry. He describes this time as a "crisis of faith," wondering if he was only ever a product of his educational environment, unable to successfully put the "right words in the right order" for poems as well as for proposals and contracts.

> *Sometimes I fear*
> *I am only doubt and that is why radiance*
> *and raptors pass through with little resistance*
> *but wind.*
>
> —from "Lost Letters," in *EKL Review,* 2020

Beal benefited yet again from the support and encouragement of his mentors, this time former U-M professor (and one of his "favorite poets on Earth"), Alice Fulton. Fulton advised him to reconnect to his poetry by reconnecting with the poetry community: a local writing group of MFA and PhD students who met over happy hour mussels and wine at the Earle.

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

A member of that writing group pointed Beal toward the Neutral Zone's Volume Summer Institute, teaching at weeklong poetry camps for local teenagers. Like so many of these moments—these breadcrumbs that are a poet's feast—the move changed his life.

The love he had for teaching as a grad student amplified beyond the university: Beal taught at Volume for the next fifteen years. Summer camps led to year-round rotations of workshops, which in 2006 attracted the attention of the newly founded Dzanc Books. He spent the following fifteen years as their writer-in-residence at Ann Arbor Open School before taking on his current range of roles as a lecturer with U-M's Sweetland Center for Writing, director of Lloyd Scholars for Writing and the Arts, cohost of the Skazat! monthly online poetry series, and coeditor of the literary journal *Public School Poetry.*

"Writing and art are the things that give me joy and give my life color and interest; things that I devote myself toward making and celebrating in so many ways," says Beal. "So now I have a profession that allows that to be the central thing that my profession is built around. That's really exciting. I like working with young people and getting energy from them, and hopefully giving some back."

Now in his early fifties, Beal gives back in other ways too—continuing to perform his work at venues across the country, and through the occasional songwriting set (with some "poems sprinkled in") at local favorite Ypsi Alehouse. He lives in Ypsilanti, a couple blocks from his longtime partner, Cat. His newest collection of poetry, *Stegosaurus Moon,* was published in June by Dzanc Books.

When asked how he prefers to describe his academic work, and his poetry in particular, Beal pauses carefully before answering.

"There are all kinds of ways in which we are cut off from a full experience with the world, and I think one of the things that I really treasure is kindling those moments of recognition about just how freaking weird it is to be alive, and how magical that is.

> *if the wadded paper wiping the counter*
> *and the bowl of frosted wheat mean*
> *I've come downstairs and begun a day*
> *in the world*
> *then there's the world*
> *of yesterdays and all the lost keys buried.*
>
> —from "Alarm," in *Vinyl,* 2017

"Writing so much can feel like a solitary, lonely pursuit, and I think there's a lot of mythology around the lone genius writer, but I think it's really community that makes so much art happen and makes it sustainable."

—Bree Stilwell

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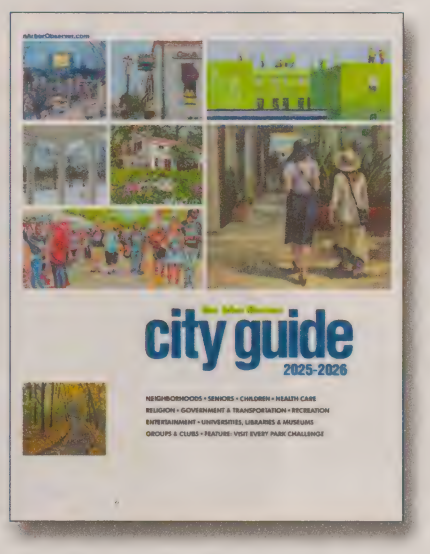
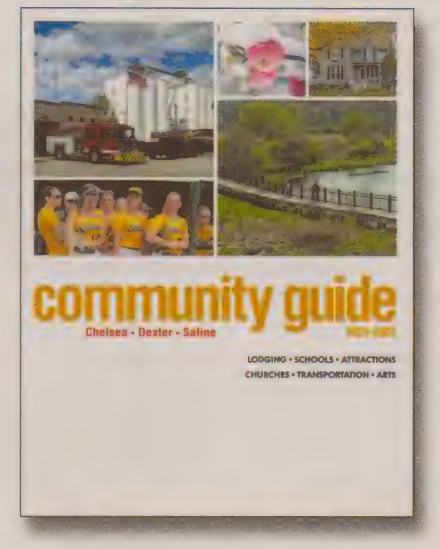


Ann Arbor
Published August 10



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Ann Arbor's Reading Challenge

Can the school district's new curriculum and training programs lift sagging test scores?

Part one of a series on literacy in Ann Arbor.

By Shelley Daily

In June, the personal finance site WalletHub named Ann Arbor the "most educated city in America" for the ninth consecutive year. The ranking cites the city's large number of residents with college degrees and its highly rated public schools.

But despite the positive publicity, standardized test scores show that many Ann Arbor–area kids are struggling with reading proficiency. According to results released last year from the 2024–25 Michigan Student Test of Education Progress, only 56 percent of AAPS third-graders met or exceeded proficiency standards in English Language Arts ("Learning Lag," Oct. 2025). It was the lowest proficiency rate since Michigan started administering the M-STEP in 2015, and marked an 11 percentage point drop from the pre-pandemic 2018–19 rate.

Experts consider third-grade reading proficiency to be a key education benchmark, as it's the stage when students begin to need strong reading skills to master other subjects—that is, when kids shift from "learning to read" to "reading to learn."

The yearslong decline, which mirrors a statewide trend, prompted a rethinking of how to teach reading in AAPS, including a shift to new curriculum materials and more access to training for educators. Officials hope to see the benefits of these changes begin to show up this month, when final results from the 2025–26 M-STEP are released.

ANNIE COMPERCHIO

Stella Rodriguez, a teacher at Ann Arbor Open School, believes kids need to "fall in love" with reading.

State officials are looking for a similar turnaround, after years of declining results due in part to the pandemic. On a key national study known as the Nation's Report Card, Michigan was ranked forty-fourth in the U.S. for fourth-grade reading in 2024—dropping eight places since 2019.

In response, Governor Gretchen Whitmer has made student literacy one of her top priorities for the remainder of her term. In July, the state legislature passed the 2027 school-aid budget, which includes $502 million in funding for literacy initiatives.

The New Curriculum: Arts & Letters

Of course, there's not just one cause for the downturn in scores. The third graders tested in 2024–25 were kindergartners when AAPS returned to full-time in-school instruction in 2021 after the pandemic eased, so many of them missed out on the early exposure to reading that happens in preschool.

In Ann Arbor, the district is "still recovering" from pandemic disruptions, says Dawn Linden, AAPS assistant superintendent of teaching and learning. One of these is a lingering problem with absenteeism ("Out of Class," Mar. 2026), which she says is a "strong contributor" to the lower test outcomes. She notes that building administrators are carefully monitoring chronically absent students and "working really hard to make sure that the classroom experience is something they want to be there for."

Linden says classroom engagement is a "strong part" of the district's new K–5 reading and writing curriculum, Arts & Letters, which was rolled out during the 2025–26 school year. The curriculum is part of an approved list of evidence-based reading curricula that the Michigan Department of Education developed under Michigan's 2024 K–12 literacy/dyslexia laws. The program costs $1.5 million over five years. The district has secured $1.2 million in MDE grants for the first three, and the remainder may come from the general fund or additional grants.

AAPS has "taken real advantage of the MDE grants to make our changes and our transformation in reading instruction to be fully aligned to the science of reading, which is the most effective way to teach children how to read," says Linden.

The "science of reading" approach emphasizes early phonics instruction and draws on cognitive science. Previously, AAPS used a "balanced literacy" curriculum, with materials from Fountas and Pinnell (named after the two educators who developed the program). Outside of early education, these materials are best known from the groundbreaking 2022 podcast series *Sold a Story,* in which investigative journalist Emily Hanford found the curriculum, and others like it, to be ineffective at teaching literacy skills.

With AAPS's shift, "we're very confident that each year we're going to see that incremental improvement where students have both built their reading stamina … because it is far more rigorous, and they [will have] acquired all those skills they need to be independent," says Linden. But she adds that the M-STEP, like all standardized tests, has "limitations and inherent bias, so making sure that we keep those data points in the right context is important."

Kristen Smith, elementary ELA and social studies curriculum coordinator for the district, explains that while the M-STEP and similar assessment programs offer "large data," the district is also strengthening its local assessment system, including the Phonics, Reading, and Spelling Survey "to better understand each strand of literacy and which students might need some additional interventions."

The district is building off its previous work: in 2022, it began offering educators state-funded elective training in a program called Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling, or LETRS. Smith says it can "provide our teachers with all of the foundational knowledge that they need to understand how students learn to read and write." Just over 50 percent of AAPS elementary educators are enrolled in the training or have completed it. In addition, Linden says, "our building literacy coaches are in every building, coaching and supporting teachers."

"A Really Big Ask"

Stella Rodriguez, who teaches first and second grade at Ann Arbor Open School, believes kids "need to learn the 'how' of reading, but also need to fall in love with it." As one of the teachers who piloted Arts & Letters for the district, Rodriguez hopes the new curriculum "will blend the two together." She also calls a newer K–2 phonics program from UFLI Foundations, another science of reading tool, a "step in the right direction."

However, with AAPS teachers working without a contract since the end of last year ("Why the AAPS Contract 'Agreement' Was Anything But," May 2026), Rodriguez, who is a union rep for Open, is conflicted. "I don't know that it's the fix-all that Ann Arbor thinks it is," she says. "The program is a lot of time and energy to do it well. If they continue to invest in curriculum and programs but don't respect the time and labor of the teachers, it's not enough."

Rodriguez sees the elective LETRS training, which she completed in 2024, as "valuable" but also "a really big ask" in the current climate, because teachers aren't compensated for the training time. (LETRS is an eight-month commitment that can take more than ninety hours.) Smith, the district ELA coordinator, says potential grant funding could provide substitutes so teachers can complete the training during the school day.

Closing the Gaps

In AAPS and statewide, educators and officials are concerned not only with improving proficiency rates, but also with narrowing racial, economic, and other disparities in the results. M-STEP data show that English learners, students with disabilities, and kids from economically disadvantaged families are among the subgroups of students with the greatest needs. In Ann Arbor, there was a nearly 46 percentage point gap between economically disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged third-graders who scored as advanced or proficient in English Language Arts last year.

"The data shows that kids with privilege and money, they're doing okay, [but] you look at kids who are poor and who are Black or Brown and they are not," says Kathy Wyatt, who leads the Literacy Coalition of Washtenaw County. She points to "the historical racism, the segregation, the lack of access to housing and good jobs, and then you add schools and underfunding of Black schools … It outrages me. A person's life story should not be written when they're in third or fourth grade."

In the Ypsilanti area, Washtenaw Intermediate School District superintendent Naomi Norman estimates there are some 5,580 students scoring more than a year behind grade level who require support.

"Schools have a role, for sure" in improving outcomes, Norman says, but "our community has a role as well. How are we creating an overall culture of literacy, and support for literacy, coming from every direction?" ■

NEXT MONTH'S THEME:

"Our Children Need Us:" Economically disadvantaged students are disproportionately reflected in lower test scores across the county. How are schools and the community stepping up to help the kids who are falling behind?

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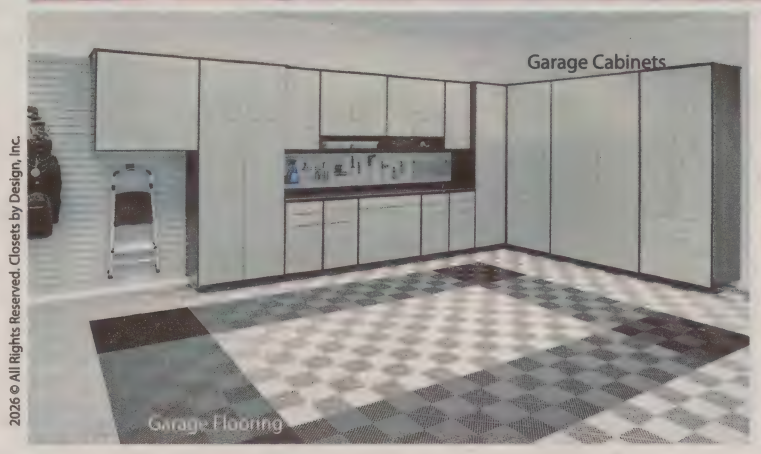

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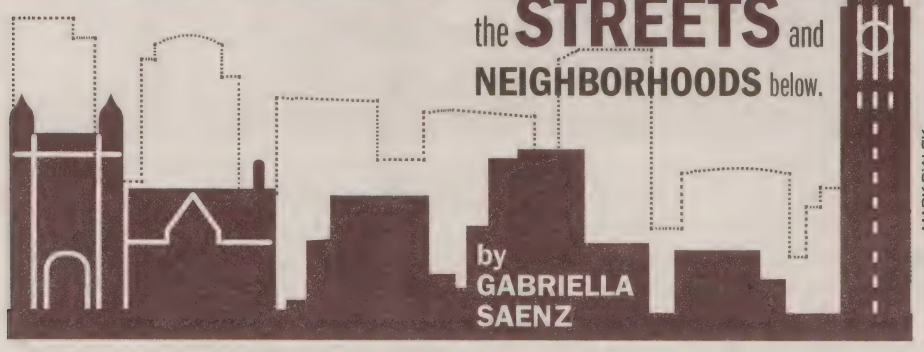

by GABRIELLA SAENZ

MARK BIALEK

Lindsay Bryan-Podvin lives in a walkable neighborhood of mostly single-family homes. She noticed a common reaction in the Ann Arbor community: "Why are we putting luxury developments in this cute college town?"

Clara Bonomi gazes out the window of her tenth-floor apartment in The Legacy on E. Washington, where she's lived for over a year. The rising U-M senior has a glorious view of sunsets over downtown and the green neighborhoods beyond.

That high perch also affords her a view of how the growing crop of luxury student high-rises like The Legacy are changing the landscape of Ann Arbor, from the skyline to street level.

In the past decade or so, at least eight buildings of seven stories or more have been built in the neighborhoods around Central Campus, some of them replacing whole blocks of retail and other businesses. Another five are planned or under construction. In all, the streets around Central Campus and downtown will have gained around 6,000 beds' worth of high-density housing between 2016 and 2029.

Many of these high-rises aim to serve the market for a particular type of student housing: apartments catering to luxury tastes and budgets. "The University of Michigan has a high percentage of affluent students, from affluent families," says Jeffrey Kahan, a past Ann Arbor city planner who is now a lecturer at U-M's Taubman College of Architecture & Urban Planning. This, he says, is one of the factors causing developers to enter the student housing market with high-end units that offer amenities such as elegant lobbies, cozy study spaces, furnished rooms with electronic locks, on-site or in-room laundry, rooftop decks, fitness centers, and swimming pools.

Bonomi describes her experience in her Legacy apartment as a simplified way of living, with trash, internet, parking, and maintenance all streamlined within the development.

"I get to have my own bedroom and bathroom," she says. "Our rooms are almost individualized suites, which is a very nice bonus."

The rise of these towers marks a pronounced shift for a community where undergraduates who moved off campus traditionally lived in modest, low-slung apartment buildings, or former single-family homes shared among roommates or divided into smaller units. It's also changing the character of streets around campus in ways that some residents and students complain is costing the city its charm. And it's part of a broader shift toward higher-density housing that could reshape Ann Arbor communities far beyond student neighborhoods.

According to the U-M Office of the Registrar, between 1964 and 2010, U-M's enrollment was increasing at a galloping pace, with roughly 1,150 more students added every year. And yet, during that time, the university did not build a single new dorm. The drought ended with the construction of North Quad in 2010, which added 450 beds, but not nearly enough to keep up with a rise in enrollment that's still continuing. In 2023, as U-M outlined plans to build a new 2,300-bed dorm at the southern end of Central Campus, it said it had enough university-owned housing to accommodate about a quarter of its undergraduates, down from 37 percent in 2004.

The widening gap between supply and demand—the makings of a student housing crisis—opened up a lucrative opportunity for private developers like Landmark Properties, which has developments across the country. They got into Ann Arbor's off-campus housing market by buying up local commercial and residential properties and, in their place, erecting high-rise, high-density apartment buildings that could command premium rents. Those long years of pent-up demand contributed to the dizzying pace of development and construction in recent years, which is why it now seems like Ann Arbor is building taller and faster than ever.

"Developers will approach businesses and say, 'Look, I'm willing to pay you crazy amounts for this property, and are you willing to put that under contract?'" Kahan explains. Once the property owner agrees, and the developers interface with the city for final approval, the developers have the green light.

And just like that, an area once filled with small businesses and foot traffic is transformed into a blur of orange construction signs and clouds of dust, awaiting its future as the next luxury high-rise development.

This transformation is evident on South University Ave., which is preparing for the influx of even more luxury student apartments set to open for the 2027–28 school year. One is Landmark's The Metropolitan, an eighteen-story, 950-plus-bed student housing community, featuring units "equipped with quartz countertops, in-unit washers and dryers, hardwood-style floors, and sleek stainless steel appliances," as described on the property's website. The Metropolitan will be the second development on South U for Landmark, which operates several others around town, with monthly rents ranging from $1,340.94 per bed for the 4X2A to $2,560.94 for a studio.

On the opposite side of South U, CRG is working on the Chapter Ann Arbor, a nineteen-story 625-bed student hous-

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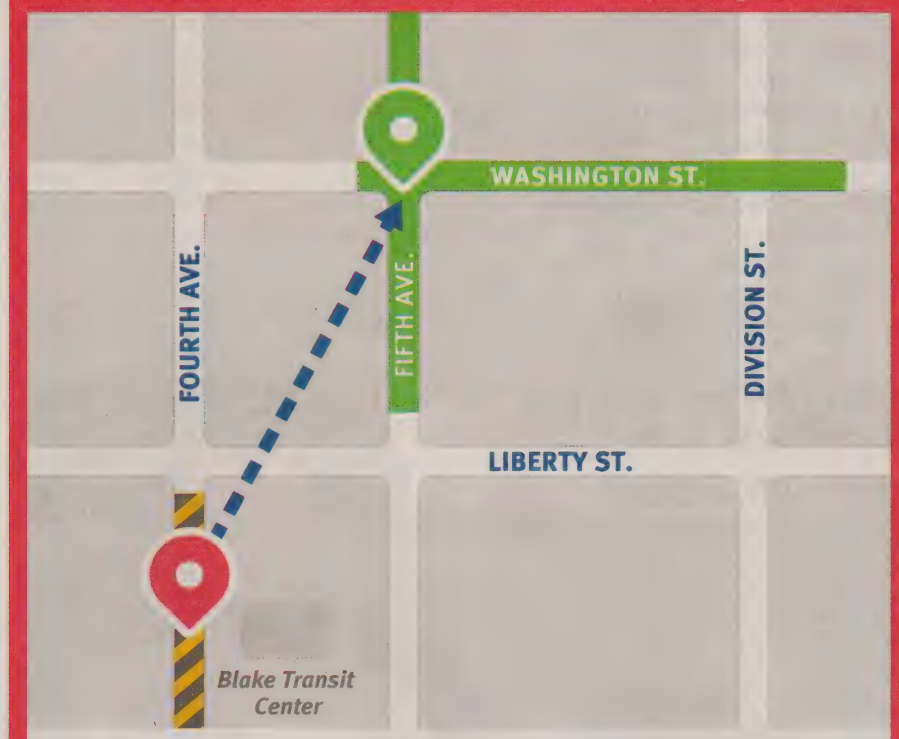

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FASTER, HIGHER, STRANGER

MARK BIALEK

Jonathan Levine, a U-M professor of urban and regional planning, says upward development can increase a city's mobility and accessibility.

ing project promising an "elevated living experience."

The two projects will join a few other high-rises that have already changed the face of South U:, while displacing several older businesses on the block, such as the Blue Leprechaun bar, Starbucks, and Oasis Mediterranean Grill. They've either moved or closed down permanently, causing some grumbling among students.

"When you lose these third spaces, you are changing the city's culture and replacing it with much more of an impersonal, capitalistic feeling," says Lucy Martin, a recent Taubman College graduate.

Martin feels the loss personally—she worked at that Starbucks before it was shut down. She and other employees were given the option to switch to another Starbucks location near campus, but there weren't enough positions for everyone out of a job.

"I know lots of people who chose to leave Starbucks altogether because it was easier, but then had to find another job and start over," she says.

Tess McKiernan, a recent LSA graduate has fond memories of South U as a walkable, comforting hot spot that has since become unrecognizable.

The loss of two places impacted her in particular: Pancheros Mexican Grill ("It was sneaky cheap. And it was open so late, so my friends and I loved going there after a night out.") and the Blue Leprechaun. ("It was a bar with a different vibe from the other most popular bars. It was its own thing.")

To be sure, some of the new buildings have ground-level retail space that can accommodate new businesses, even if they lack the college-town feel of the old ones.

But there was another aspect of the neighborhood that McKiernan misses. When she first came to U-M as a freshman, she would walk daily along the street to get to campus. She remembers the front yards and porches of the houses along East University, where students might be tanning, playing spikeball, working on their laptops, blasting music, or simply hanging out. Two years later, some of those sights, sounds, and smells—yacht rock, freshly cut grass—are gone, replaced or overwhelmed by construction noise and dust.

McKiernan's face brightens when she talks about her off-campus living experience in a bright, quirky single-family home on Greenwood, with a large parking lot in the backyard. For the first football game of the year, she and her neighbors used the space to throw a giant tailgate that stretched down the entire street. Guests bounced from one house to another.

"Everyone was just so welcoming," she recalls.

After a decade of fostering higher-density development downtown and in the Central Campus area, Ann Arbor is now preparing to spread more density throughout the city with its Comprehensive Land Use Plan, which the City Council passed unanimously in March.

According to the Ann Arbor City Council, the plan is an outline of strategies aiming to address the city's most pressing priorities, including housing affordability. The rationale is that in a space-crunched city, allowing for greater density—whether it's downtown student high-rises, or more multi-unit buildings elsewhere in town—helps create more housing supply, which can bring prices down.

A key element of the land-use plan is allowing taller buildings in certain areas of the city, up to 300 feet in zones defined as Hub areas, such as downtown, the Briarwood area, and the western edge of the city. Transition areas, such as the residential neighborhoods south of Central Campus, could see buildings of four to seven stories.

Although the council vote was unanimous, the CLUP has divided the broader community. Many longtime residents worry it will bring drastic changes, impacting the feel of their neighborhoods and Ann Arbor as a whole.

"People are buying up these smaller homes and then just stripping them back to the studs," says Laura Slider, an Ann Arbor resident since 1992 living in a single-family home, "... or they'll tear down three old houses and build a condo with six units without additional parking."

Although she says she trusts city government, Slider misses a time when things were a bit slower-paced.

"It's gotten really much more of that kind of urban, fast-paced, real professional interactions," she says. She laments the loss of some businesses close to campus, such as Borders bookstore downtown, which closed in 2011, and Jack's Hardware, which moved farther south to make room for another student housing complex.

But Ann Arbor's trend toward higher-density housing has its supporters. Single-family homes have long been seen as the default option, "simply

the backdrop," says Jonathan Levine, a U-M professor of urban and regional planning, but pushing for upward development will increase a city's mobility and accessibility.

"If we build more compact, more walkable cities and neighborhoods, this would lead people to drive less and walk more, cycle and take the bus more," he says. "So if you can really get people to drive less, maybe there's a justification for pro-density policies."

Levine attended the City Planning Commission meeting on March 17, where residents had a chance to voice their thoughts and concerns about the CLUP. He recalls a citizen commenter asking council members if they were 100 percent sure the reform would achieve the anticipated benefits. "And the answer is no, of course, we're never 100 percent sure about anything," Levine says.

Although this uncertainty might come across as a big red warning sign to many residents, Levine says, it's an expected part of any policy reform.

"People think unless you're sure, unless you have scientific confidence, then the answer is, well, you shouldn't do anything," Levine says. But that "is not an option, because doing nothing means retaining exclusionary zoning," which favors detached, single-family homes and excludes high-density housing and other more affordable housing.

The motto attached to the CLUP—"A2 for All"—reflects the city's intention to transform Ann Arbor into a more sustainable, diverse, and equitable place for all to live. "Change is inevitable, right?" Levine says. "So the only question is what form that change takes."

Accepting change is often the hard part. While residents may understand the need for development in a rapidly growing city like Ann Arbor, they still want to hold on to what they perceive as good about their beloved town. That's why Lindsay Bryan-Podvin, a longtime resident, noticed a common reaction in the community: "Why are we putting luxury developments in this cute college town?"

Bryan-Podvin, a financial therapist, lives near Q Bakehouse & Market and says that has made her life more enjoyable. She would never want to give up the ability to walk down the street and grab a scone or a cup of coffee, and wants everyone to be able to enjoy walkable experiences like that. But she also accepts that access to such enriching local experiences means building more housing in varying forms.

"There's been such an emphasis on people pointing their fingers at high-rises and saying, 'Well, we want more housing, but not housing like that or not housing that might put a duplex or triplex in my neighborhood,'" she says.

She believes that being able to build densely and diversely is the key to unlocking a truly inclusive version of Ann Arbor.

"That's what's going to enable us to become the type of city we like to pretend that we are, which is inclusive and welcoming to all," she says. ■

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The Zingerman's Times

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Deli Draws Crowds for Fiesta de España

a superb Spanish spread with top-notch tapas

Sources have revealed that Zingerman's Deli is celebrating the flavors of Spain in August with their Fiesta de España. Their shelves and counters are full of all their favorite Spanish products, everything from pantry items to paella kits. The Deli brought many of them in just for this month's celebration, so *Times* secret shoppers recommend getting them while you can.

A Deli insider told the *Times'* cultural correspondent that they'll also be featuring wines from the Ribera del Duero and Rueda regions of Spain. Located in Castilla y León, about a two-hour drive northwest of Madrid in Central Spain, these two regions are home to medieval castles, more than 400 museums, and over 100 historical city centers that define Spanish cultural heritage. The River Duero runs through these two wine regions—Ribera to the north and Rueda to the south. Winemaking in this area dates back 2,000-plus years!

Our investigators have also uncovered that tickets are now available for the Deli's annual Paella Party on Tuesday evening, August 11. Or, for at-home fiestas, cooked pans of paella are available for preorder! The open-air atmosphere of the outdoor event puts you up close to Deli chefs so you can watch them prepare the prized Spanish dish. Rebecca, a previous party participant, told the *Times*, "It was so much fun watching Chef Rodger. I can see how much he cares about and loves what he is doing." Three kinds of traditional paella—chicken, seafood, and vegetarian—will be served family style at the event, along with a variety of tapas and wine samples from the Ribera y Rueda regions.

Head to zingermansdeli.com for more info and get ready to celebrate Spanish-style.

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Can't-Miss Miso Butter Corn at Miss Kim

a summertime exclusive returns to kerrytown

Corn season has arrived, and *Times* corn correspondents are in the fields. Reports indicate that Chef Ji Hye Kim of Miss Kim has collected the cream of the crop of local, non-GMO sweet corn from local farms for her beloved seasonal Miso Butter Corn! It's a perfectly balanced combination of sweet Michigan summer corn and rich butter from Calder Dairy in Carleton. The dish features corn sautéed with pork belly lardons and caramelized and pickled onions, all tossed in housemade miso butter sauce.

Get it while you can! Head to misskimannarbor.com to place an order or make a reservation.

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Marketplace Changes

by Dave Algase

Juicy Kitchen Rises From the Ashes

Ten months after a disastrous fire, the Maple Rd. eatery is reopening.

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

It took ten months and about a half million dollars, but Juicy Kitchen owners Aaron and Kelby Ziola have succeeded in reopening the popular breakfast and lunch spot after a fire last September closed it down.

Kelby and Aaron Ziola, who married in 2024, forged their long-term relationship in large part at **Juicy Kitchen,** the breakfast and lunch café at Miller and Maple.

Kelby (née Behan) managed the front of house, and Aaron would regularly sit at the counter with a plate of nachos. "This place is such a big part of us, and it has been for the past eight years," says Aaron.

In 2019 the couple, then in their mid-twenties, took over from retiring founders Susan and George Todoroff. Continuing their focus on healthy fare and community, they survived the next year's pandemic disruption with expanded wholesaling and a GoFundMe appeal that raised more than $12,500.

But on September 17, 2025, another disaster struck.

"Aaron and I were sitting at home one evening, had just had our dinner, and we got a call from our wholesale manager," Kelby recalls. "They were here cooking after hours, and she was like, 'There's a fire at the restaurant.'

"It was super surreal when it was happening. I remember driving here, just so much anxiety, but then we pulled in and saw the smoke and the fire trucks. I just remember, like, 'Our baby!'"

A merchandise freezer only a few years old had caught fire. It took a microscopic inspection to find the cause, as Aaron explains: "The quick connect, where the cord connects to a circuit board. So that basically started a small fire, and then these new refrigerants, they're more eco-friendly, but they're flammable. So as soon as they reached the refrigerant, then the whole thing went up."

Fortunately no one was injured, and the fire would have been worse without staff there to notice it. But it's taken ten months and about a half million dollars to revive the restaurant. Juicy Kitchen was on the verge of reopening as the Observer went to press.

Determining liability took some time, and damage from fire, smoke, and firefighting chemicals required a near total replacement of mechanical systems, equipment, and their interior within the multiunit building. Complying with codes updated since its 1977 construction was another factor. "The idea that we'd be shut down for this long never really crossed our minds," Aaron says.

As hands-on owner/operators, "we have a lot of control of everything, we're calling the shots," Kelby says, "but throughout this project we have very little control of timelines."

Their insurance, along with their landlord's, covered most of the rebuild, and a business continuity policy kept them and their staff solvent for a while. Kelby says another GoFundMe campaign, this one raising over $28,000, helped them retain eleven members of their team of fourteen.

"You ask the second time around, you're kind of like, oh, I don't know, people may be like, 'I've already donated,' right?" she says. "But no, they really showed up and had our back, so that was so touching and heartwarming, for sure."

Another upside is a fresh start: more reliable plumbing, better climate control, and new equipment and furnishings. They reduced seating during the pandemic in favor of prepared foods coolers, but now they've added a long bench and will accommodate more tables inside, along with patio and picnic seating shared with their "like family" neighbor El Harissa, Kelby says.

The Ziolas are more than eager to welcome back customers. "When they place an order, we take names so that we get to know them," Kelby says. "We're so small, so sometimes there'll be someone sitting by themselves at a table and another single person will walk in, and the next thing you know, that person invites the other person to sit with them at the table, and next week they come and have another lunch date together that they plan. So little things like that, where we just see relationships developing, I would say is kind of what makes us special."

The fare, from breakfast burritos to smoothies and baked goods, makes "no compromise on flavor," as Aaron puts it, while offering many options for vegan or gluten-free diners. "We always say you can take your meat-loving dad and his vegan daughter out to breakfast, and they'll both find something they like," adds Kelby.

Among their bestsellers is a breakfast sandwich with an over-easy egg, avocado, sriracha, goat cheese, and roasted peppers. They're keen to the new irony in its name.

"When we bring it to a table," Kelby says, "people will be like, 'I'm the Hot Mess.'"

Juicy Kitchen, 1506 N. Maple. (734) 585–5562. Wed.–Fri. 7 a.m.–2 p.m., Sat. & Sun. 8 a.m.–2 p.m., closed Mon. & Tues. juicykitchen-a2.com

Restaurants on the Block

Afternoon Delight, Shalimar, Bløm, and more hang For Sale signs.

With some owners looking to retire or pursue other interests, and others feeling overextended or beset by changing circumstances, several notable restaurants are now for sale. All continue to operate while seeking buyers, and none have confirmed plans to close.

Joanne Williams, sixty-three, wants to spend more time being a grandma, so she's looking for a smooth transition for **Afternoon Delight,** the venerable breakfast and lunch eatery at 251 E. Liberty.

"We've been here forty-eight years, so I really hope somebody wants to keep it going, because I hate to see another restaurant gone in Ann Arbor," she says. "I plan on being here probably till the end of the year, so I'm waiting for somebody to give me an offer and sweep me off my feet. I don't have a deadline really."

Another downtown mainstay, **Shalimar,** at 307 S. Main, is listed at $1 million by Colliers Ann Arbor. Veteran broker Jim Chaconas says the Indian restaurant's most recent partnership group is down to one owner-operator who feels overwhelmed—"Great spot, turnkey, [they] just put a new heat and cooling system in."

Bløm Mead + Cider, at 100 S. Fourth Ave., is for sale via Swisher Commercial

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Marketplace Changes

for $425,000, which includes brewing equipment, the taproom, licenses, intellectual property, and seller training and support. Lauren Bloom and Matt Ritchey launched the craft production and community space in 2018.

One block south, Amanda Debek says there's been some interest in the **House of Chimney Cakes Café** she opened two years ago. She's seeking $300,000 but knows that overhead costs and a competitive discretionary dessert sector are challenges. Lacking a sale, she plans to rebrand to make the most of her investment in the leased space.

Road construction during her busiest season "was a total, total crash for us," she laments. "Our numbers went down over 50 percent weekly because of that."

Dave and Beth Ziegler have been looking since last year to retire and sell their **Grand Traverse Pie Company** franchise at 291 N. Zeeb. Chaconas—who's listing the bakery/restaurant at $750,000—is optimistic, while noting that lease renegotiations and franchising issues take time.

Sonca Luu tells the Observer she plans to focus more on her beauty-related establishments and aims to sell South University stalwart **Kang's Korean Restaurant,** one of three eateries she purchased last year.

Cheesesteak destination **Mr. Spots,** at 808 S. State since 1986, was listed in 2024 for $1.2 million, now updated to $649,900. Chaconas says they were hurt by the bike lane that replaced street parking, but new housing nearby bodes well. "I think they're just going to operate and see if the business comes back," he says.

Chaconas doesn't necessarily infer a trend or systemic issue behind the number of establishments seeking a successor. "Most of the times, the sales are people aged out," he says. "It's not the business." But that's not to gloss over the challenges.

"To run a restaurant these days, it's so hard," he says. "Labor, property taxes are jumping through the roof, and expenses, and then food costs—they change, like, daily."

The Last Loaf of the Best Baguette

Jeff Renner retires after forty-six years of baking award-winning bread.

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Jeff Renner, who turns eighty in September, brought his forty-six-year career baking the Best French Bread in Town to a close in June.

Early in Jeff Renner's forty-six-year bread baking career, his baguettes bested all others in crust, taste, and texture at a competition for Alliance Française, a local club dedicated to the French language and francophone culture.

"They sent me a nice note saying that your bread is the best French bread in town," he recalls. The compliment became the calling card for his cottage industry supplying loaves to homes, caterers, and local markets (several of which he's outlasted). "And I didn't make up the claim. These French experts made it for me!"

A blue ribbon from the 1979 state fair still hangs beneath the food service license at his Scio Twp. home, although he can see "it's faded to purple."

Born at the vanguard of the baby boom, Renner admits to feeling his age—he turns eighty in September—so he got a hearty sendoff June 5 with his last delivery of the **Best French Bread in Town** to Arbor Farms Market. The farewell party "was very overwhelming," he says. "It was just sort of a whirlwind."

In 1975, the middle school science teacher took a year of paternity leave—unprecedented in Ann Arbor Public Schools—to care for his and wife Nancy's newborn son. With Nancy secure in her career as a medical technologist for University Hospital (she eventually retired thirteen years ago), he never went back.

"We decided it made more sense for her to continue working and me to be the stay-at-home parent," he relates. "Quite pioneering at the time." They welcomed a daughter four years later.

He'd make bread for Triangle Cooperative Preschool bake sales and "people would always buy it," he recalls. "I mean, it was gone immediately, and then they'd say, 'You know, I'm having a party. Can you make some of that for me?'"

A small ad in the October 1979 Observer was the only paid publicity he'd ever need. He once set up a card table at the Ann Arbor Farmers Market with eight loaves of free samples and some index cards. "I went home with a stack of orders," he says. "Back then, the farmers market was a little more casual."

He'd personally deliver the baguettes, sold in batches of eight since they froze well, for $13 total. "The kids would ride along when they were too young to be left at home," he says. "They would complain about the overwhelming aroma of the bread, because it was also outgassing a little bit of alcohol. I think it made them a little woozy."

The gregarious baker held many a doorstep conversation, "and the kids

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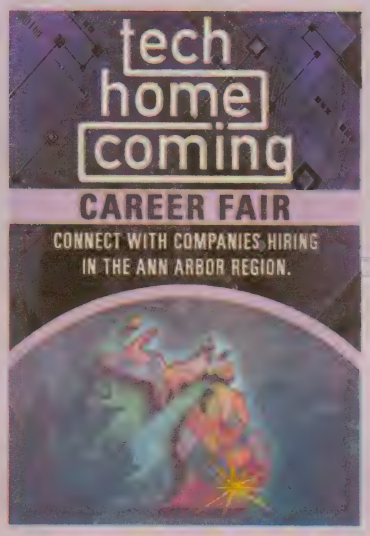

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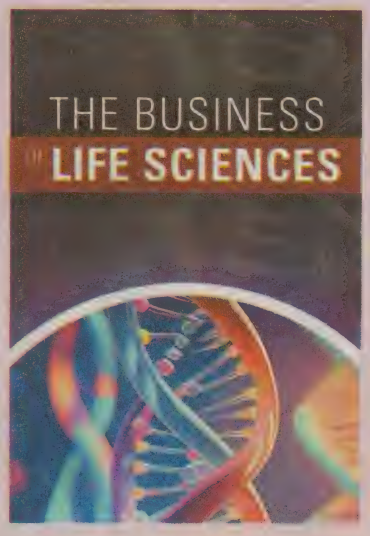

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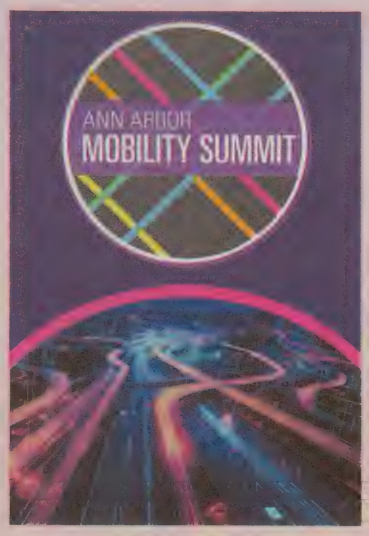

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Marketplace Changes

would get fussy because I wasn't coming out quick enough," he says.

He says he eventually called the health inspector to keep the business aboveboard. "He said, 'I've been wondering when I was going to hear from you!' He wasn't worried about me poisoning the citizens of Ann Arbor with bread."

Renner equipped his home with a commercial sink, a twenty-quart Hobart mixer, and a Little Caesars pizza oven that lasted until replacement parts went extinct. Some 300,000 loaves ensued.

His formula combined elements from Julia Child and a recipe included with a pan purchased from the former Kitchen Port, where he deployed his teaching skills for cooking demonstrations.

The key is adding very little yeast and taking lots of time so that "wild yeast and bacteria aren't overwhelmed by the yeast, and they get a chance to do their own thing, ferment, and they produce a lot more flavor than commercial yeast," he says. He'd let the dough rise overnight, knock it back in the morning, and give it several more hours before baking "so the dough is quite tart, like a sourdough almost, and much more flavorful than if bread is rushed."

He enjoys making other varieties and is accomplished at beer as well, as a founding member of the Ann Arbor Brewers Guild. But he says the business was "at capacity with the baguette, so my feeling was, why complicate my life?"

A similar sentiment saw him spurn offers over the years to expand beyond his accustomed ritual, which produced 320 loaves per week at its peak.

"I'm very glad I resisted that," Renner reflects. "It just wasn't my style. I like kind of being a big fish in a small pond.

"What I will miss the most is definitely the people. Sometimes they would treat me as a celebrity. I've signed more than one autograph. It's kind of embarrassing, but I told them I just put my pants on one leg at a time, like everybody else."

Briefly Noted

Eighteen years ago, Hope Meadows began designing greeting cards with literary and vintage themes, recruiting fellow moms from the playground to help with her home-based business.

A series of moves and product line expansions ensued, and now **Fly Paper Products** sells over $1 million a year in gifts and home goods, mostly wholesaling to some 2,000 customers worldwide, particularly independent bookstores.

Online customers have included some who want to pick up their purchases in person at their 8,000-square-foot production facility, set back off Jackson Rd. near Parkland Plaza.

"They'll come in, they'll grab their bag, and they'll say, 'Can I go smell the candles? Can I look at anything else?'" Meadows says. "I'm like, 'Yeah, come on in.' But it's always awkward for them."

So they recently opened the front area as a retail shop to showcase their literary-inspired lines. Along with the greeting cards and candles, they feature glassware, mugs, classic books, notebooks, tote bags, stickers, magnets, writing implements, natural wood bookmarks, teas, room sprays, and more.

"I never set out to have all of this. It grew organically," Meadows says. Her literary passion drives the creative effort, supplemented by her staff. "They come up with a lot of phrases, they have a lot of ideas, and they're all book lovers, so it really helps with the excitement."

Their all-time top seller is a multicolored memo pad patterned after library book checkout cards of yore. The sticker that reads "I'm silently correcting your grammar" has sold more than any other. (Meadows has eschewed filing for trademarks: "I feel like a phrase is a phrase. … There's a piece of the pie for everyone.")

The wit, nostalgia, and bibliophilia extend across the product categories, where one truth holds steadfast: as Meadows says in a casual aside, "We could sell anything Jane Austen."

Fly Paper Products, 4109 Jackson Rd. (989) 493–1804. Mon.–Fri. 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Closed Sat. & Sun. flypaperproducts.com

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At **Sandbox VR,** groups of up to six players engage in immersive virtual reality experiences ranging from family-friendly dinosaur encounters to shooting adventures to corporate team-building exercises.

Anil Nichenametla of Canton Twp., an IT product manager, launched the franchise of the ten-year-old entertainment company in June.

The father of children ages fifteen and nine says VR is for all ages, but especially appealing to teens. "When I went with my kids to Chicago, when [we] played this, they were so excited. They felt very happy about the experience."

He reached out to the San Francisco headquarters and opted for an Ann Arbor opportunity because it's "a very happening place," he says. "Downtown is the right choice."

While they accommodate drop-ins whenever possible, online reservations are recommended. A party room is available, and the entire facility—which includes a sizable lobby and four holodeck chambers—can also be reserved for special events.

Trailers help players choose among eleven exclusive experiences, including Deadwood Phobia, the most popular, and Squid Game Virtuals, inspired by the Netflix series.

Participants or a parent/guardian must sign a safety waiver and image release if not completed in advance. Employee guides provide an orientation and equip players with goggles, wrist and ankle sensors, and a vest for motion capture and haptics, or touch sensitivity. Headphones allow in-game communication. Some weapons-based games offer upgrades for more firepower.

After the half-hour experience, a video debriefing provides statistics and scores—there are location-specific and global leaderboards—and replays samples from the adventure and the players as they moved within the holodeck.

Most experiences are $57 per player, which may sound steep, but Nichenametla says his start-up costs easily scaled into seven-figure territory.

"We run like a data center in the location to get that kind of accuracy, to get that kind of experience," he says. "No lag. For that you need a very high computing power."

Sandbox VR, 215 E. Washington. (734) 263–2627. Mon.–Wed. noon–9:30 p.m., Thurs. 11 a.m.–10 p.m., Fri.–Sun. 10 a.m.–midnight. sandbox-vr.com/annarbor

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Playing on early 2000s nostalgia and collectability, **Flip Retro** is a new buy/sell/trade store in the West Stadium Shopping Center for gaming cards, video games, toys, figurines, precious metals, and more.

Owner Yousif Alghazaly, twenty-three, lives in Ypsilanti but was born and raised in Ann Arbor, attending Logan Elementary, Clague Middle, and Skyline High.

The youngest of three, he has fond memories of playing Pokémon at tournaments with brothers Bilal and Ali. "Back in 2020 when everyone was home, I was just going through my stuff, and I found a box of Pokémon cards," he recalls. "It was when the craze was happening, when everyone's opening packs, first time, so I kind of just started the hobby again."

Stocked up from card shows, and with considerable contributions from his brothers, cousins, and their families, Alghazaly's first store is filled with an eclectic assortment of merchandise both new and old—games and consoles from PlayStation, Xbox, and Nintendo; movies on DVD; gold, silver, and coins; plushies and Funko figurines; and toys from the liquidated XIMI-V store in Briarwood Mall.

"The more you buy, the more you make, is what you can say. You just have to know what to buy," Alghazaly says. He hopes to eventually open a second store in Manhattan.

Several brands of cards are on hand for both casual play and high-end collections, with graded examples behind glass priced up to $6,000.

"We're in the era for Pokémon right now," says Ali, the middle brother. "All the people that grew up with Pokémon, like us, we're willing to spend thousands to get that Charizard. So it's competition between all the grown kids with money, basically."

Such nostalgia-driven demand starts by simply having fun, so tables near the front window are set up for players to partake, with packaged snacks at the ready.

Flip Retro, 1910 W. Stadium. (734) 340–0222. Daily 9 a.m.–9 p.m.

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The youth-oriented value retailer **Five Below** opened in Oak Valley Centre in June in the former Joann Fabrics & Crafts space.

The Pittsfield Twp. location becomes the chain's third in the area, at least for now, joining current stores at Arborland and Maple Village. Store manager Brandy Booth transferred from the Maple Village store, which she says will close in January.

Summertime business has been fairly slow, but Booth expects an August surge upon the return of U-M students with dorm rooms to furnish. Even so, squishy toys are all the rage these days: "A TikTok influencer went viral," she says, "and now we can't keep some of these things in stock."

Five Below, 2897 Oak Valley. (734) 704–7807. Mon.–Sat. 9:30 a.m.–9:30 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m.–8 p.m. fivebelow.com

Closings

Joe Osei-Bonsu tells the Observer he's still looking for his next storefront for **Kasoa Africa Market,** which recently closed after four years in Scio Twp.'s Jackson Centre strip mall.

The Ghana native previously operated the market from two successive Pittsfield Twp. locations after he retired as an electrical engineer for General Motors. Kasoa refers to a bustling city near Ghana's southern coast whose name derives, not coincidentally, from the Hausa word for market.

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Countering the trend of Yemeni coffeehouse openings, **Qahwah House** has closed less than two years after its Maple Village launch.

No information was forthcoming from the otherwise growing Dearborn-based chain, but comments on Reddit and Google reviews suggest various operational problems.

Eight other options around Ann Arbor offer the likes of mofawar coffee, Adeni chai, and honeycomb bread, though one recent entrant—**Hayati Coffee,** inside Baba Dari Mediterranean Grill on Packard—is on summer hiatus.

Got a marketplace change? Email marketplace@aaobserver.com.

Music at Nightspots

by Michael Bright

Listings are based on information available at press time. ***Up-to-date schedules are posted at annarborobserver.com,*** *but it may be advisable to call ahead. Times are noted only if they differ from the default showtimes listed in the description of each club.*

Ann Arbor Funhouse

207 E. Washington

This lounge (attached to the Mash Ann Arbor bar) in the basement of Slow's Bar BQ, and a separate events space upstairs, feature live music or DJs most Thurs.–Sat. 9 p.m.–close. Dancing, $5 cover, except as noted. **Every Sun.: Jazz Jam Session.** Jazz ensemble led by Kenji Lee, a local saxophonist whose expressive brand of jazz draws on Japanese folk music, Western classical music, and punk. **Every Thurs., except Aug. 27: "MixPlates."** With Ryan Cady and other DJs TBA. **Aug. 1: "Disco Boutique."** With local DJs **Mogi Grumble** and **Gemstone James. Aug. 3: Hickoids.** A rowdy blend of punk and country by this veteran Austin sextet known for its colorful guitar work, hard-driving punk rhythm section, and depraved sense of humor. Openers: **Stomp Rockets,** an energetic local garage-punk quintet that's the latest in a long, storied line of great bands fronted by the charismatic vocalist Dan Mulholland, and **Cave Man, Bam Bam, & Alroy,** a Detroit blues-based punk-rock trio. **Aug. 6: Ramones Tribute Show.** With Ramones covers, along with some originals, by local rock bands **Templetons, Scissor Now!,** and **Human Skull. Aug. 7: Viines.** Local bedroom-pop producer & rapper. Openers: the Detroit-area pop singers **Kaisa** and **Liquidpretty,** along with area EDM DJs **Avernon** and **Rinbossanova. Aug. 8: "Rock Against Data Centers."** With the area punk bands **3 the Hard Way, Screen Tear, Infariot,** and **Puppy Teeth. Aug. 13: Los Dragos.** Ypsi proto-punk power trio. Openers: **So Say We All** (see Hear. Say) and **Hard Candy,** a local rock band fronted by Spark vocalist Robin Grant. **Aug. 14: Telepathic Wax.** Detroit-area house DJ collective. **Aug. 21: The City Lines.** Local self-styled "Springsteen backed by Jimmy Eat World" power-pop trio fronted by singer-songwriter (and Ann Arbor firefighter) Pat Deneau. Openers: the Detroit rock 'n' roll band **Good Man's Brother** and **Head Full of Ghosts,** an Ypsi alt-rock trio led by singer-songwriter and guitarist James Henes. **Aug. 22: R Solomon.** Detroit-based electronic music producer & DJ. Openers: fellow area electronic artists **Fling II, Todd Modes,** and **Ryan Spencer. Aug. 27: The Lonesome Skeleton Band.** Dark folk-rock by this Detroit-area one-man band who performs in skeleton makeup. **Aug. 28: FernWhale.** Dreamy indie rock by this Ypsi wife-and-husband duo. Openers: **Milan & the Ellipsis,** an Ypsi alt-folk band led by veteran singer-songwriter & guitarist Milan Seth, and **Jim Cherewick,** a versatile veteran local postpunk rock 'n' roll singer-songwriter. **Aug. 29: Team Cabin.** Detroit-area pop-punk and emo band. Opener: **Shindig Machine,** a local postpunk rock trio.

The Arboretum

984 E. Michigan Ave., Saline
(734) 221–9313

This new music venue and event space, just east of downtown Saline, features live music at 8 p.m. most Fri. & Sat., and occasional other nights. Cover, dancing. Tickets $10 (unless otherwise noted) in advance at thearboretummusicvenue.com & at the door. **Aug. 1: "Vibes Only Festival."** With performances by the local horrorcore rapper **Calmal,** the Port Huron underground hip-hop rapper **Pee.Tzu,** the Detroit hip-hop rapper **Forever Foy,** and others TBA. Hosted by Detroit-area hip-hop rapper **Magik Zig.** 7 p.m. **Aug. 8: Vinylvara.** Local pop-rock cover band. **Aug. 14: Shade Zero.** Detroit-area alt-rock band. **Aug. 15: Jeremiah Mack & The Shark Attack.** Ypsi acoustic postpunk pop-rock trio. **Aug. 20: Cloverleaf.** Ypsi postpunk band. Openers: the Detroit-area emo band **Mccloud** and the local postpunk rock trio **Shindig Machine.** $15. **Aug. 28: Kick It 6.** Country- and rockabilly- inflected indie rock band from Ohio.

The Ark

316 S. Main (734) 761–1451

Michigan's leading showcase for American and international performers of all forms of traditional and roots music and contemporary songwriting. Shows almost every night at 8 p.m. Mon.–Sat. & 7:30 p.m. Sun., unless otherwise noted. Tickets are sold in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office (734–763–TKTS) & theark.org, and at the door ($4 discount). **Aug. 1: Natalie Lynch.** Bluesy, soulful, countrified folk-rock by this Chicago singer-songwriter whose influences include Bob Dylan, Waylon Jennings, Carole King, and Joni Mitchell. $24. **Aug. 2: Chris Pierce.** California folk-rock and Americana singer-songwriter & guitarist known for his brassy tenor voice, introspective lyrics, and fiery harmonica solos. *American Songwriter* calls him "one of America's most talented, gifted, and affecting artists." $29. **Aug. 3: Hot Club of Cowtown.** Veteran Austin-based acoustic trio—guitarist Whit Smith, violinist Elana James, and upright bassist Jake Erwin—that plays an eclectic mix of 1920s jazz standards, western swing tunes, cowboy songs, fiddle tunes, originals, and offbeat covers. $35. **Aug. 5: Selwyn Birchwood.** Acclaimed blues singer and guitar virtuoso from Florida known for his gravelly voice, electrifying guitar solos, and high-energy live shows. $29. **Aug. 6: Girl Named Tom.** *Sold out.* **Aug. 7: Moonmill.** Brooklyn-based duo of pop-folk singer-songwriters Mary Collins and Kaye Hamada, a pair of Ann Arbor natives known for their sophisticated guitar lines and rich, crystal-clear vocal harmonies. The duo return to town with a collection of songs featuring tender and harsh everyday stories about contemporary young adulthood. Opener: **Maddy Ringo** (see below). $24. **Aug. 8: Bill Kirchen.** An Ann Arbor native, now based in Austin, who first gained fame as the guitarist for Commander Cody and His Lost Planet Airmen, Kirchen and his band play a rowdy mix of rockabilly, honky-tonk, blues, swing, and truck-driving songs. Tonight Kirchen is joined by a pair of veteran Texas sidemen—bassist Jack Saunders and drummer Rick Richards—to celebrate the release of his brand-new album, *Cat Out of the Box.* $29. **Aug. 9: North Ingalls Band.** U-M student indie pop-folk groove septet. Tonight they are joined by **Ananda Murari,** an Ypsi pop-folk singer-songwriter. whose work is influenced by Indian music. $24. **Aug. 10: The High Kings.** *Sold out.* **Aug. 11: Fink.** Sparse, pulsating folk-rock soaked in 70s nostalgia by this English band led by singer-songwriter, and former dance music DJ, Fin Greenall. $35. **Aug. 13: Raynes.** Sophisticated, irresistibly catchy folk-pop reminiscent of the Lumineers and Mumford & Sons by this British-American trio of singer-guitarists known for its intricate vocal harmonies, poetic lyrics, and unique instrumentation. $24. **Aug. 14: West Texas Exiles.** Austin-based folk-rock & Americana band fronted by a trio of singer-songwriters—Marco Gutierrez, Daniel Davis, and Colin Gilmore, son of legendary Texas troubadour Jimmie Dale Gilmore. $29. **Aug. 15: George Bedard.** Local guitar great Bedard leads a band of veteran local musicians in his popular annual series exploring the history of American roots music. Tonight's first set pays tribute to the legendary rock 'n' roll guitar pioneer Carl Perkins, featuring songs like "Honey Don't," "Blue Suede Shoes," and "Dixie Fried." The second set explores music from the year 1963, from rock 'n' roll and surf music to country and R&B, with songs by a variety of artists, including George Jones, the Surfaris, Otis Redding, Little Johnny Taylor, and Bob Dylan. $35. **Aug. 16: American Patchwork Quartet.** Roots music ensemble led by Hindustani classical vocalist Falu Shah and veteran guitarist & arranger Clay Ross, best known as the frontman of the acclaimed Gullah group Rank Tanky. Its music is a forward-thinking homage to America's past with an eclectic blend of Appalachian folk, gospel, and Indian classical music that one *Mix Magazine* reviewer calls "a breathtaking confluence of heritage roots, jazz, and world music influences." $29. **Aug. 18: Devon Allman.** Jam-oriented blues-rock ensemble led by singer-songwriter and guitarist Allman, the son of Southern rock legend Gregg Allman. His most recent album, *The Blues Summit,* is a rollicking collection of originals and blues classics recorded with blues greats Larry McCray, Jimmy Hall, and Sierra Green. $40. **Aug. 19: Chastity Brown.** Acclaimed Minneapolis-based Americana singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist who cites James Baldwin and Carson McCullers as prime influences. The *Billings Gazette* calls her "a banjo-playing soul singer, a harmonica-blowing gospel belter, piano-pounding blues woman." $29. **Aug. 20: The Trews Acoustic Trio.** Three principal members of this acclaimed Canadian rock band—Colin Macdonald, John-Angus MacDonald, and Jack Syperek—perform stripped-down acoustic renditions of hits from their extensive catalog. $29. **Aug. 21: Damn Tall Buildings.** NYC-based Americana trio whose sound mixes elements of blues, bluegrass, vintage swing, and old-time roots music. *Americana Highways* calls their 2025 album, *The Universe is Hungry,* "one of the best, well-crafted albums of the year. Pristine, proficient instrumentation & just about every composition is fluent & fun, performed with finesse & sufficiently countrified. Their vocal enthusiasm is an easy sell." $29. **Aug. 22: Rodney Crowell.** A legendary country and country-rock singer-songwriter whose songs feature a characteristic blend of amiable charm and lurking menace. Crowell first gained attention in the 70s as a guitarist and principal songwriter in Emmylou Harris's band, and in the 80s he wrote hits for several country-pop performers, including Crystal Gayle and the Oak Ridge Boys. His current show features songs from throughout his career, mixed with tunes from his 2025 release, *Airline Highway.* $51. **Aug. 23: Tray Wellington Band.** Forward-thinking contemporary bluegrass ensemble led by Wellington, an acclaimed banjo player known both for his technical prowess and unique phrasing. "If bluegrass is about spotlighting virtuosos, here's a new one people will be checking in on for some time to come," writes the *Wall Street Journal.* $29. **Aug. 24: Open Stage.** All acoustic performers invited. Fifteen acts are selected randomly from those who sign up (doors open 7:30 p.m.) to perform 8 minutes (or 2 songs) each. The most talented and popular Open Stage performers are offered their own evenings at the Ark. $3 (members & students, free). **Aug. 25: Lost Mary.** Folk-rock & Americana duo from Hillsdale who write story songs heavily influenced by Bob Dylan and Gregory Alan Isakov. Free; nonperishable donations for Food Gatherers accepted. **Aug. 26: River Shook.** A fiery fusion of twangy outlaw country and punk by this nonbinary North Carolina singer-songwriter & guitarist who recently changed their name and embarked on a solo career after years fronting the popular alt-country band Sarah Shook & the Disarmers. Opener: **Moe Reen,** an acclaimed young country-folk singer-songwriter from Ohio. $29. **Aug. 27: Annie & Rod Capps Band.** Local ensemble led by the duo of singer-guitarist Rod Capps and his wife Annie, a singer-songwriter and electric guitarist who writes thoughtful, distinctively personal, warmly exuberant folk-rock songs and ballads that are both musically sophisticated and down-home. Tonight they celebrate the release of their brand-new album, *Never Done.* $24. **Aug. 28: Marty O'Reilly.** California blues-and- gospel-inflected folk-rock singer-songwriter whose music takes inspiration from Woody Guthrie, Howlin' Wolf, Sister Rosetta Tharpe, and Tom Waits, among others. $26. **Aug. 29: Maddy Ringo.** Canadian singer-songwriter, a recent U-M voice grad, whose songs are inspired by the likes of Joni Mitchell, k. d. lang, and Suzanne Vega. Opener: **Mikey Abbasspour,** an eclectic local singer-songwriter & classical guitarist. $24. **Aug. 30: Biird.** Recently-formed all-female 11-piece Irish trad supergroup known for bringing a contemporary pop edge to classic Irish tunes with lilting vocal harmonies and inventive instrumentation. $29. **Aug. 31: The Brudi Brothers.** Alt-country with a bluesy edge by this sibling trio, longtime buskers on Seattle street corners, who have become known for their raucous live performances and distinctive old-world soul. Opener: **Meels,** a young California country-folk singer-songwriter. $29.

JAYNE DROOGER

Blues singer and guitar virtuoso Selwyn Birchwood plays the Ark August 5.

The Blind Pig

208 S. First St. (734) 996–8555

This venerable club, founded in 1971, features live music by a variety of rock, pop, hip-hop, and other acts most Wed.–Sat. and occasional other nights, 9 p.m.–1 a.m. (unless otherwise noted). All-ages shows are 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. or midnight. Also, occasional early shows, usually 7–10 p.m. Doors open an hour before showtime. Cover (age 20 & under, $5 extra), dancing. Advance tickets at blindpigmusic.com/calendar. **Aug. 1: "Bring Your Best Fest II."** With the area blues trio **Detroit Trouble,** the Northern Michigan heavy metal band **Of The Flesh,** the Westland metal band **Life Has Taught,** the Detroit alt-rock band **Day After Night,** and the Detroit-area heavy rock band **Daisyskin.** $20. **Aug. 2: Bay Faction.** All ages. Veteran Boston indie rock trio. **Opener: Nuffer,** an L.A.-based indie rock singer-songwriter. $25. **Aug. 5: Payton & Annabelle.** West Michigan alt-folk duo known for their intimate harmonies and confessional lyrics. Openers: the Kalamazoo indie rock band **Two Dollar Bills** and the U-M student jam band **On Tap.** $14. **Aug. 6: Ally the Piper.** The stage name of bagpiper Ally Crowley-Duncan, an internet star who blends traditional Celtic music with rock &

metal influences. $30. **Aug. 12: Final Boss Fight.** East Lansing rock quartet. Openers: the Warren alt-rock band **LoudFoxCult,** the Detroit-area indie rock band **Hemmingway Lane,** and the Oklahoma emo pop-punk duo **Sunfo.** $14. **Aug. 15: Bloody Run.** Detroit-area heavy shoegaze band. Openers: the local punk & grunge quartet **The Blank,** the Detroit shoegaze duo **Nurse,** and the Detroit-area post-hardcore alt-punk band **Reader.** $14. **Aug. 20: Headband Henny.** Kalamazoo alternative R&B singer, Openers: the Wisconsin indie skate-rock band **Social Cig,** the Detroit-area alt-rock band **FrostisRad,** and the Clinton acoustic indie pop-rock band **Luna Pier.** $16. **Aug. 21: "*Off Campus* Dance Party."** All ages. DJ dance party inspired by the popular college romance TV show *Off Campus.* Costumes encouraged. $22. **Aug. 26: Jay Webb.** All ages. Popular Alabama country singer and YouTuber whose music features gritty contemporary country lyrics sung over hip-hop trap beats. Opener: **Caitlynne Curtis,** a contemporary country singer-songwriter from Nashville. $25. **Aug. 27–29: "Fuzz Fest 10."** With 30-minute sets by 11 different area heavy rock bands each night. **Aug. 27:** the local stoner rock band **Blue Snaggletooth,** the area punk trio **Human Skull,** the Detroit rock 'n' roll band **Good Man's Brother,** ethereal folk-rock by **Kat Steih and the Ferals,** the Detroit psychedelic garage rock & Americana band **Rose St. Germaine,** the Detroit all-female punk-grunge quartet **Twin Freaks,** the Detroit-area garage rock band **Kozy,** the Wisconsin fuzz-rock band **Golf Dolls,** the local alt-rock pop-punk band **Trouble Clinic,** the Ypsi goth-flavored psychedelic rock trio **Modern Lady Fitness,** and the Ypsi psychedelic surf-rock quartet **Virga.** $20. **Aug. 28:** The Detroit blues-rock trio **The Muggs,** the Detroit garage-punk duo **The Idiot Kids,** the Detroit stoner rock trio **Winds of Neptune,** the female-fronted Detroit doom metal band **Angel Of Mars,** the Detroit psychedelic prog-rock band **Glass Chimera,** the Detroit postpunk noise-pop band **Time Creep,** the all-female Ferndale self-styled "twat punk" duo **Seahag,** the Ypsi "garage-a-billy" power trio **Las Drogas,** the Philadelphia garage punk band **Soraia,** the Detroit-area bass & drums doom metal duo **Solar Monolith,** and the local emo band **Tell Me When.** $20. **Aug. 29:** the Detroit postpunk power pop garage trio **The Strains,** the Detroit psychedelic punk band **Cherry Drop,** the popular veteran Ypsi Detroit-style rock 'n' roll band **Mazinga,** the Ypsi psychedelic garage rock band **Velvet Snakes,** the Detroit hardcore band **Supreme Mystic,** the Detroit prog-rock band **Blood Rune Sigil,** the Detroit self-styled "poolside glitter punk" band **Hayley & The Crushers,** the Grand Rapids doom-metal stoner band **Ghost Pipe,** the Grand Rapids skate punk band **Reckless Rhythms,** the Chicago instrumental prog-rock duo **Coyote Man,** and the Ypsi self-styled "space-sludge emo-crust" band **Tongue.** $20.

The Blue LLama

314 S. Main (734) 372–3200

This jazz club/restaurant features live music sets by regional and nationally touring jazz acts. 7 & 8:30 p.m. (Wed. & Thurs.), 7 & 9 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.), 6 & 7:30 p.m. (Sun.), and late shows 10:15–11:15 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.). Except as noted, $25 per set (late night shows, $15). Dinner & show tickets include a 3-course dinner. Advance tickets available at bluellamaclub.com. No dancing except for Latin jazz shows and as otherwise noted. **Aug. 1: Chris Collins & the 2026 Detroit Jazz Festival All-Star Band.** Veteran saxophonist Collins leads this ensemble of top-notch Detroit-area players in a program of original works inspired by John Coltrane, along with new interpretations of Coltrane compositions. **Aug. 2: Todd Marcus & Virginia MacDonald Quintet.** Straight-ahead jazz with a modern touch by this ensemble led by Baltimore bass clarinetist Marcus and Toronto clarinetist MacDonald. **Aug. 5: Lisa Sung Quartet.** Jazz standards and originals by this ensemble led by Grand Rapids–based composer-pianist Sung. **Aug. 6: Blou Reed.** Young jazz sextet that plays funky original compositions along with classics from the hard-bop and post-bop catalog. **Aug. 7: Olivia Van Goor.** Ensemble led by young Detroit-area jazz singer & composer Van Goor who tonight perform a tribute concert to Anita O'Day. **Aug. 8: Shahida Nurullah & Good Company.** Quartet led by Nurullah, a big-voiced Detroit jazz singer who specializes in blues, ballads, and pop standards. **Aug. 9: Jordan Anderson Trio.** Ensemble led by Detroit pianist Anderson, an MSU jazz studies grad. **Aug. 12: Jauron Perry Quartet.** Jazz ensemble led by up-and-coming Detroit trumpeter Perry. **Aug. 13: Aguankó.** Local Afro-Cuban jazz ensemble led by composer-percussionist Alberto Nacif. **Aug. 14: Allen Dennard Quintet.** Mainstream jazz ensemble led by young local trumpeter Dennard, a U-M music grad whose music incorporates elements of hip-hop, R&B, and funk. **Aug. 15: Kevin Jones & 10th World.** Jazz ensemble led by Jones, a veteran New Jersey–bred percussionist whose playing is distinguished by its strong Afro-Cuban pulse. **Aug. 16: Braxton Cook.** Acclaimed jazz vocalist & multi-instrumentalist whose music is a blend of hard-edged tightly arranged contemporary jazz instrumentation and soaring 90s R&B–style vocals. Dinner shows: 6 & 8 p.m. $85. **Aug. 19: Third Coast Swing.** Veteran Ludington trio that specializes in swing-era Gypsy jazz. **Aug. 21: La Tanya Hall Quartet.** Ensemble led by this jazz vocalist renowned for her ability to breathe new life into the Great American Songbook. **Aug. 22: Sean Dobbins Organ Trio.** Jazz ensemble led by veteran local drummer Dobbins, joined tonight by sultry-voiced Lansing jazz singer **Tiffany Gridiron. Aug. 23: Sunny Wilkinson Quartet.** Local ensemble led by vocalist Wilkinson, a nationally known straight-ahead jazz singer. **Aug. 26: Aya Sekine Trio.** Experimental jazz improvisations by this ensemble led by veteran Japanese vocalist-keyboardist Sekine. **Aug. 27: Stephen Rush Trio.** Edgy contemporary jazz by this ensemble led by pianist Rush, a U-M music professor. **Aug. 28: Xavier Davis Quartet.** Jazz ensemble led by veteran pianist Davis, an MSU jazz professor and longtime accompanist of the legendary jazz vocalist Betty Carter. **Aug. 29: Ben Paterson Organ Trio.** Ensemble led by acclaimed NYC jazz organist Paterson. Tonight they are joined by veteran guitarist **Randy Napoleon,** an Ann Arbor native and MSU jazz professor. **Aug. 30: Alonso Umana Quartet.** Ensemble led by this acclaimed young Mexico-based drummer, a recent MSU jazz studies grad.

El Limón

2709 Plymouth Rd. (734) 780–7088

This Mexican-Mediterranean fusion restaurant in the Plymouth Mall Plaza features live music Mon. & Thurs. 6–8 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Aug. 10: Joe Summers & Pete Bullard**. Duo of veteran local jazz guitar virtuosos. **Aug. 20: Street Fiction.** An evening of jazz by this local rock band led by guitarists Dan Denison and Austin Netherton. **Aug. 27: Focus: Jazz.** Jazz favorites by the trio of pianist Jeff Fessler, bassist Will van Kampen, and saxophonist Jeff Kopmanis.

The Habitat

3050 Jackson Rd. (734) 665–3636

The lounge at Weber's Inn features live jazz Fri. & Sat. 9–11 p.m. Dancing, no cover. **Every Fri. & Sat.** (except as noted below): **Habitat Jazz Collective.** Jazz originals and standards by a local ensemble led by singer-bassist Rob Crozier. **Aug. 7: Ryan DeHues.** Jazz ensemble led by this local crooner known for his style and swagger. **Aug. 15: Kelly "Bird" McDermott.** Ensemble led by this local jazz flutist-vocalist. With pianist Phil Lesky and drummer Marc Smith. **Aug. 22: Shahida Nurullah.** See Blue LLama. **Aug. 28 & 29: Mike Harrison, Jimmy Ryan, & Kenji Lee.** Local jazz trio.

Hear.Say Brewing + Theater

2350 W. Liberty (734) 506–8441

This improv and comedy theater (see Events for shows) venue hosts live music in the summer with performances most Sat. 4–7 p.m. & Sun. 3–6 p.m. No cover. **Aug. 1: The Vig Arcadia.** Detroit rock band whose music incorporates elements of blues, funk, and pop. **Aug. 9: Let's Pretend.** Jazz, country, and pop tunes by this local trio led by bassist Tim Berla and fronted by vocalist Naya Loftus. **Aug. 22: The Missing Cats.** Local jazz fusion quintet. **Aug. 23: Irish-ish.** Trio from the Malty Taskers that plays traditional Irish music and Irish pub songs. **Aug. 29: So Say We All.** Local self-described "glitter-noir" ensemble that plays rock covers and originals infused with elements of psychedelia and glam-punk.

JD's Stage Bistro

117½ S. Main, Chelsea

This brand-new purpose-built 130-seat listening room, attached to a full-service restaurant, features live acoustic music by a variety of local and touring folk-rock & Americana acts 7 p.m. Thurs.–Sat. and 6:30 p.m. Sun. Tickets $20–$30 in advance at jdsstagebistro.com and (if available) at the door. No dancing. August schedule TBA.

The Last Word

301 W. Huron St. (734) 585–5691

This downtown cocktail bar features live music Thurs. 9 p.m.–midnight. No cover, no dancing. **Every Thurs.: The Pherotones.** A wide range of jazz and jazzed-up popular music, from the 1920s to the present, by this all-star local quintet. With trumpeter Ross Huff, pianist Giancarlo Aversa, bassist Brennan Andes, violinist Jordan Adema, and drummer Wes Fritzemeier.

Live

102 S. First St. (734) 623–1443

This lounge features live music Fri. during happy hour 6:30–9 p.m. and occasional evenings. Also, DJs Mon. & Thurs.–Sat. 10 p.m.–2 a.m. No cover (except Fri. & Sat. after 11 p.m.), dancing. **Aug. 14: The Extrusions.** Dance music by this popular local cover band with a huge repertoire of classic, New Wave, and modern rock hits and forgotten gems from the 1960s through the 2010s. **Aug. 21: Steve Lucky & the Rhumba Bums.** Swinging jazz standards and driving R&B by this acclaimed ensemble led by Lucky, better known in Ann Arbor as Steve Wethy, the frontman and pianist for the Blue Front Persuaders, a neo-jump blues quintet that was one of the great local bands of the early 80s. Wethy moved to San Francisco many years ago, but his local shows continue to draw big crowds. **Aug. 28: Foundry Town Survivors.** Classic Detroit rock 'n' roll by this band led by veteran singer-songwriter & guitarist Mark Tomorsky.

Mash Ypsilanti

400 W. River St., Ypsi (734) 441–6200

This bar in the Thompson Bldg. in Depot Town features music Fri. & Sat. 8 p.m.–midnight. Trivia (7–9 p.m.) and karaoke (9 p.m.–midnight) on Thurs. Dancing, no cover. **Aug. 1: Nathan Grant.** Classic rock covers by this Detroit-area singer-guitarist. **Aug. 7: Full Tilt Boogie.** Local blues-rock band led by singer-guitarist John Babij. **Aug. 14: NuAudio.** Toledo classic rock & pop cover trio. **Aug. 15: Brian Byrnes.** Lansing jam-rock singer-guitarist. **Aug. 21: Jay Frydenlund.** Chirp singer-guitarist who plays rock 'n' roll, blues, and folk covers and originals. **Aug. 22: Pinter Whitnick.** Detroit-area duo that plays alt-rock covers from the 80s & 90s. Remainder of the August schedule TBA.

Moonwinks Tavern

5151 Plymouth Rd. (734) 994–5151

This bar, located next to the Moonwinks Café, features live music, mostly folk-rock & Americana, every Fri. & Sat. 7–9 p.m., and occasional other nights. Cover $5–$10; no dancing. **Aug. 1: The Social District Jazz Quartet.** Local jazz ensemble. **Aug. 7: G-Fours.** Self-described "quintessential American garage band that is actually a string quartet." **Aug. 8: There and Back Again.** U-M student jazz quartet. **Aug. 14: Alex Anest, Chris Bober, & Brynn Hilliker.** Local jazz ensemble. Tonight they play original music, covers of songs by Chick Corea and Steve Swallow, and a set of tunes by Antonio Carlos Jobim sung in the original Portuguese by guest vocalist **Erika Ventura. Aug. 20: Open Mic.** All performers invited. Hosted by local folk-rock singer-songwriter Mike Gentry. 6–9 p.m. **Aug. 21: 40 Stitches Later.** Lansing Americana alt-country quartet. **Aug. 22: "Dixboro Summer Days."** See Events listing. **Aug. 28: Prior Art.** See Zal Gaz. **Aug. 29: Kait Bimer.** Thoughtful folk-style originals by this U-M jazz vocals student.

North Star Lounge

301 N. Fifth Ave. nstarlounge.com

This music room & bar, affiliated with the Detroit Street Filling Station next door, features live music, mostly folk-rock & Americana, Wed., Fri., and Sat. 6:30–10 p.m. Also, Thurs. 7–10 p.m., LGBTQ Night features a rotating mix of DJs, trivia, karaoke, and bingo. $10–$20 cover (happy hour shows, free), no dancing. If advance tickets are sold, they are available at nstarlounge.com/events and (if available) at the door. **Aug. 1: "Shadows & Light: The Music of Joni Mitchell."** Tribute band led by vocalist Olivia Van Goor (see Blue LLama) and Lansing drummer Jeff Shoup. Tonight they perform 2 sets of songs from Mitchell's iconic 1979 live jazz crossover album *Shadows & Light.* 6:30 & 8:30 p.m. $25. **Aug. 5: Poetry Open Mic.** All invited to bring a poem or monologue that they've written. Hosted by cat h. bradley & Forrest Hejkal. Sign-up starts at 6:30 p.m. 7–10 p.m. Free. **Aug. 6: Billy Brandt and Elaine Schoendorf.** Duo of veteran Detroit country-flavored psychedelic folk-rock singer-songwriters. 5:30–6:30 p.m. Free. **Aug. 6: "Queer Open Mic."** All invited to bring a song, story, poetry, comedy, expression, magic, monologue, or other performance. Sign-up begins at 6:30 p.m. Hosted by Coley Roberts and Thea Zuby. 7 p.m. Free. **Aug. 7: Dino Time.** Local acoustic pop-folk duo. 5:30–6:30 p.m. Free. **Aug. 7: Pontiac Trail Blazers.** Local bluegrass quartet known for its beautiful vocal harmonies and instrumental prowess. Tonight they are joined by fiddler **Emily Slomovits.** 7–10 p.m. $10. **Aug. 8: The Whiskey Charmers.** Classy Detroit neo-honky-tonk quartet fronted by singer-guitarist Carrie Shepard that bills its music

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as "electric heartbreak on the rocks." 6:30–7:45 p.m. $15. **Aug. 8: AgawDilim.** Detroit-area trio that performs a mesmerizing blend of exotic world rhythms with contemporary jazz-inspired riffs. 9–10:15 p.m. $20. **Aug. 12: Jordan Smith-Hays.** A mix of mostly instrumental funk, rock, jazz, R&B, and blues covers by this local guitarist. 5:30–6:30 p.m. Free. **Aug. 12: G-Fours.** See Moonwinks. 7–9:30 p.m. $10. **Aug. 13: Lila Fetter.** Local pop-rock singer-songwriter. 5:30–6:30 p.m. Free. **Aug. 14: The Steve Taylor Three.** Acoustic trio led by Lake Orion Americana singer-songwriter Taylor. 5:30–6:30 p.m. Free. **Aug. 14: Pontiac Trail Blazers.** See above. Tonight they are joined by guest musicians TBA. **Aug. 15: Ani Mari & Co.** Ensemble led by this Houghton Americana roots music singer-songwriter, a U-M student. Tonight Mari plays 2 shows celebrating the vinyl release of a new single from her upcoming sophomore album, *The Masquerade.* 6:30 & 8:30 p.m. $20. **Aug. 19: Ukulele Jake.** Ann Arbor-bred, NYC-based ukulele player and stand-up comic known for his up-beat and entertaining live shows. 5:30–6:30 p.m. Free. **Aug. 19: Earthwork Music Collective.** With performances by Michigan singer-songwriters TBA. 7–10 p.m. $25. **Aug. 20: Alex Wand & Nelle Anderson.** An improvisational blend of opera and performance art by this duo of soprano-composer Anderson and Wand, a local guitarist who plays joyous and unpredictable instrumental originals featuring unconventional tunings. 5:30–6:30 p.m. Free. **Aug. 21: Shiny Shiny Black.** Award-winning alt-folk band from Indiana. 5:30–6:30 p.m. Free. **Aug. 21: Pontiac Trail Blazers.** See above. Tonight they are joined by fiddler **Grant Flick. Aug. 22: Warren & Flick.** Acoustic string music blending elements of folk, old-time, and classical music by the duo of bassist Jacob Warren and fiddler-guitarist Grant Flick. 6:30 p.m. $20. **Aug. 22: Schmaltz.** Local collective with a repertoire of klezmer-funk originals and klezmer classics. 9–10:30 p.m. $20. **Aug. 26: Saahnjoo.** Detroit-area ambient-pop singer-songwriter. 5:30–6:30 p.m. Free. **Aug. 26: Open Mic.** All invited to present a song, story, poem, monologue, comedy bit, magic act, other performance. Hosted by Annie Bacon & Forrest Hejkal. Sign-up starts at 6:30 p.m. 7–10 p.m. $5. **Aug. 27: Rachel Arnsdorf.** Jazz ensemble led by this local vocalist. 5:30–6:30 p.m. Free. **Aug. 28: Ralph McKee Blues Trio.** Energetic, sophisticated blend of danceable soul, blues, and rock by this band led by Hoodang bassist McKee. 5:30–6:30 p.m. Free. **Aug. 28: Pontiac Trail Blazers.** See above. Tonight they are joined by dobro player **Tony Pace. Aug. 29: Bobby Pennock Trio.** Folk-rock ensemble led by Pennock, a Plymouth singer-songwriter whose style draws its influences from Paul Simon and Harry Chapin, with a helping of the Beatles thrown in for good measure. 6:30–7:45 p.m. $15. **Aug. 29: My Salamander.** Eclectic young local indie rock band. 9–10:15 p.m. Ticket price TBA.

Old Town

122 W. Liberty (734) 662–9291

This downtown corner bar features live music 1st & 3rd Sun., and occasional other nights, 7–9 p.m. Cover, no dancing. **Aug. 16: Unkle Lay Lee & the Moonshine All-Stars.** Local quintet led by vocalist and multi-instrumentalist Gray Motsinger that plays an eclectic brand of outlaw country with punk, funk, and rock influences.

The Ranch

122 W. Washington (734) 741–7325
theranchhonkytonk.com

This new downtown honky-tonk bar features live country music Thurs. 7–10 p.m., Fri. & Sat. 5–11:30 p.m., and Sun. 7–10 p.m. With DJ sets in the basement Thurs.–Sun. 9 p.m.–close. $5 cover, no dancing upstairs. **Aug. 1: Jeff McNiven.** Veteran Michigan acoustic roots rock and alt-country singer-songwriter. 5 p.m. **Aug. 7: Whiskey Bound.** West Michigan high-energy country & classic rock cover band. **Aug. 14: Mike Root.** Mid-Michigan country singer-guitarist. 5 p.m. **Aug. 14: Hunter Neff & The Rodeo Clowns.** Local honky-tonk band. 8:30 p.m. **Aug. 15: Double Wide Ride.** Popular Lansing-area modern outlaw country band that plays 90s-inspired line dancing originals along with classic country covers. **Aug. 20: James Muto.** Jackson pop-country singer-guitarist. **Aug. 21: Eric Moore & The Fugitives.** A new country side project by veteran local singer-songwriter and fingerstyle guitarist Moore. **Aug. 22: Keegan Jacko.** Mainstream country covers, and some originals, by a band led by this Detroit-area singer-guitarist. 5 p.m. **Aug. 27: Rollin Brummette.** Lansing country band. **Aug. 28: Motor City Moonshine.** Country and classic rock covers by this Detroit-area quartet. **Aug. 29: Mallery Lynn.** Jackson-based country-rock singer. **Aug. 30: Mike Root.** See above.

The Ravens Club

207 S. Main (734) 214–0400

This downtown bar & grill features live jazz Sun. 7–10 p.m. & Thurs. 9 p.m.–midnight. $5 cover, no dancing. **Aug. 9: Arnold/Jassi/Kramer.** Local world music–inflected jazz ensemble of drummer Jesse Kramer, guitarist John Arnold, and bassist & vocalist Pathe Jassi. **Aug. 30: Dave Sharp Worlds Quartet.** Local composer-bassist Sharp leads this world music–based jazz ensemble that explores traditions from Turkey, Egypt, Ukraine, India, Bulgaria, Armenia, and Greece. With violinist Henrik Karapetyan, percussionist Mike List, and oud player Igor Houwat. Remainder of the August schedule TBA.

Rumpus Room

506 N. Main, Chelsea (734) 616–6646

Music room inside Jet's Pizza features live music at 7:30 p.m. most Fri. No cover (except as noted), dancing. **Aug. 7: Jerry's Tone.** Grateful Dead tribute band. **Aug. 14: Strawberry Lake.** Dexter alt-country quintet formerly known as Mercury Switch. **Aug. 21: The Mighty Swells.** Grateful Dead tribute band.

Sam Hill

5827 Jackson Rd. (877) 325–6439

This restaurant hosts live music on an outdoor stage most Wed.–Sat. (6–9 p.m.), with a DJ set Sun. (4–7 p.m.). No cover, dancing. Dogs welcome. **Aug. 1: Pleasure House.** Local high-energy punk cover band. **Aug. 6: Open Mic.** All performers invited. Hosted by local folk-rock singer-songwriter Mike Gentry. Sign-up at 5:30 p.m. **Aug. 7: Modern Lady Fitness.** Ypsi goth-flavored psychedelic rock trio. Openers: **Time Creep,** a Detroit postpunk noise-pop band. **Aug. 13: AJ Lynn.** Detroit folk-rock singer-guitarist. **Aug. 14: Mike Vial.** Local folk-rock singer-songwriter who sings songs about love and life's transitions. **Aug. 15: Killer Flamingos.** Popular Dearborn band that performs rock 'n' roll covers and originals. **Aug. 21: Gregory Stovetop.** Veteran Chelsea singer-songwriter, a self-styled "riff rock space cowboy" whose influences range from Elvis and Johnny Cash to Soundgarden and The Replacements. **Aug. 22: Travis Faber.** Local singer-guitarist who plays classic country, pop, and rock 'n' roll covers. **Aug. 28: Shaun Garth Walker.** Local blues-oriented singer-guitarist with an eclectic, wide-ranging repertoire. **Aug. 29: Heather Black Project.** Vintage jazz and blues by an ensemble led by Heather Schwartz, a talented local singer whose vocal style also reflects gospel, R&B, soul, and hip-hop influences.

Water Tower Distilling Co.

23 N. Washington, Ypsi (810) 479–1615

This new downtown Ypsi tasting room and bar features live music most Thurs.–Sat., and occasional other nights, 7–9 p.m. unless otherwise noted. No cover, dancing. **Aug. 1: John Finan.** Canton folk-rock singer-songwriter who plays everything from mournful ballads and love songs to funny songs dripping with sarcasm and wit. **Aug. 7: "Rhizome Roots Speakeasy."** Music and poetry open mic; all performers invited. 8–10 p.m. **Aug. 9: Open Blues Jam.** Performers of all skill levels invited. Hosted by **James Bourland & the Staches,** a local quintet fronted by Bourland, a singer-guitarist who specializes in all forms of American roots music. 6–9 p.m. **Aug. 14: Adam Labeaux.** Energetic folk-rock & soul by this former Ragbirds guitarist. **Aug. 15: Jordan Blanchard.** Highly regarded local fingerstyle guitarist who plays mainly country & blues covers, along with some originals. **Aug. 21: Root Cause Analysis.** Duo of local folk & Americana singer-songwriters Jill Baker & Lynne Frederickson. **Aug. 28: Paul Keller Trio.** Jazz ensemble led by veteran local bassist Keller. **Aug. 30: II-V-I Orchestra.** Large ensemble that plays late 30s swing and 40s R&B hits ranging from Duke Ellington and Miles Davis to Glenn Miller, Frank Sinatra, and the Blues Brothers.

Ypsi Alehouse

124 Pearl, ste. 100, Ypsi (734) 487–1555

This brewpub features live music Tues.–Sat. 7–9 p.m., Sun. 2–4 p.m., & early shows as noted. No cover, no dancing. **Aug. 1: Jill & Wolf.** Local husband-and-wife acoustic duo of Jill & Wolf Reuter. 4:30–6:30 p.m. **Aug. 1: 40 Stitches Later.** See Moonwinks. Openers: area acoustic alt-country singer-songwriters **Blair Kitch & Kerry Armes. Aug. 6: McLaughlin's Alley.** Detroit Irish-tinged pop-rock quintet fronted by sibling singer-songwriters Tina and Maureen Paraventi. **Aug. 7: Mary Ann Kirt.** Pop-folk and indie rock originals by this local singer-guitarist. 4:30–6:30 p.m. **Aug. 7: Steve Somers & Friends.** Jazz & blues standards by an ensemble led by WCC jazz guitar instructor Somers. **Aug. 8: Ukulele Jake.** See North Star Lounge. 4:30–6:30 p.m. **Aug. 8: Anna Ess & Friends.** Local indie folk singer-songwriter whose music is inspired by Fiona Apple, PJ Harvey, and Alanis Morissette. **Aug. 9: Steve Somers & Friends.** See above. **Aug. 12: Dog Latin.** The stage name of Chris McGorey, a Canton singer-songwriter who plays adventurous folk-rock. **Aug. 13: Pittsfield Open Band.** Veteran local ensemble that plays old-time American and Irish dance tunes. **Aug. 14: The Kis Bennah Duo.** Traditional jazz & swing covers by this local duo. 4:30–6:30 p.m. **Aug. 14: Ron Shelton.** Americana country-rock and folk-rock covers by this local singer-guitarist. **Aug. 15: Gold.** Celtic New Age band. **Aug. 15: Sansabelt.** Alt-country and indie rock cover band. **Aug. 16: "Ann Arbor/Ypsi Acoustic Jammers."** All acoustic musicians invited for an open mic followed by an hour of jamming. Participants welcome to bring chord-and-lyric sheets of any well-known song for the jam. **Aug. 18: Open Mic.** All acoustic musicians invited. Hosted by singer-songwriter Phil McMillion. **Aug. 19: Deep Steam.** Ypsilanti quartet that plays jazz, rock, and soul covers, along with some originals. **Aug. 20: Focus: Jazz.** See El Limón. **Aug. 21: Masculine Lethargy.** Performances by local male singer-songwriters TBA. **Aug. 22: Runnin' on Blues.** Southern rock, blues-rock, and blues by this Livonia trio. **Aug. 23: Steve Somers & Friends.** See above. **Aug. 25: Open Mic.** See above. Hosted by Skinned Knees. **Aug. 26: Ukulele Jake.** See North Star Lounge. **Aug. 27: Norm & Sandy.** Local duo of singer-guitarists. **Aug. 28: Dirt Road Ramblers.** Blues, classic rock, and originals by this local band. 4:30–6:30 p.m. **Aug. 28: The Malty Taskers.** Old-time music from blues and country to hokum by this local quintet. **Aug. 29: Rounding Third.** Local folk-rock quartet with bluegrass & Irish music flavors whose instrumentation features guitars, banjo, flute, and keyboard. 4:30–6:30 p.m. **Aug. 29: Jill & Wolf.** See above. **Aug. 30: Big Top Swing.** A new Detroit-area instrumental ensemble that plays fresh interpretations of vintage swing from the 30s & 40s.

Zal Gaz Grotto

2070 W. Stadium (734) 663–1202

This Masonic social and service club features live music Sun. 5–8 p.m., Mon. 7–11 p.m. (except July & Aug.), Tues. 5–7 p.m., & Thurs.–Sat. 8–11 p.m. Cover, dancing. The venue features a full bar and a kitchen that serves California- & Colorado-inspired progressive Mexican food. **Every Sun.** (except Aug. 2): **Phil Ogilvie's Rhythm Kings.** Local 10-piece big band led by tubaist Chris Smith that specializes in the old-time big band music of the late 1920s and early 1930s associated with Jelly Roll Morton and King Oliver. **Every Tues.: Easy Street Jazz Band.** Early jazz classics from Scott Joplin and Bessie Smith to Louis Armstrong and beyond by this veteran local septet led by trombonist Terry Kimura. **Aug. 1: The Machine.** Pop, rock, and punk dance tunes by this local quartet featuring 2 former Bluescasters, guitarist Phil Ryski and bassist Doug Wolgat, along with drummer Rocky Di Iacovo and singer Aubrey Selaty. **Aug. 3: Bob Sweet Group.** Ensemble led by veteran local drummer Sweet, an original member of the versatile Sun Messengers big band. **Aug. 6: Relics of The Future.** Local jazz ensemble led by bassist Tim Berla. With clarinetist & percussionist Charles Dayringer, keyboardist Paul Bairley, and saxophonist & flutist Paul Girard. **Aug. 8: Funk Opus.** Local R&B-funk septet fronted by Salmagundi vocalist Sheila Rhodes. **Aug. 13: Prior Art.** A mix of originals and 60s–90s rock covers by this local quintet. **Aug. 15: Breakdown.** Local Tom Petty tribute band led by singer-guitarist Shawn McGinnis. **Aug. 20: Naked Ace.** Local 11-piece rock, blues, and soul cover band. **Aug. 21: Heavy K & the Freaks.** 70s classic rock and dance music by this veteran local septet fronted by vocalist Kevin Whitehead. **Aug. 22: Ransom Jones.** Veteran local jazz-funk-rock quintet led by singer-guitarist Jim Dana. **Aug. 27: Jim Dandy Band.** Rock 'n' roll classics by local one-man band Jim Burd. **Aug. 28: Ferrario.** Pop, rock, and blues by this local quintet fronted by vocalist Carrie Ferrario. **Aug. 29: Ralph McKee Blues Band.** Energetic, sophisticated blend of danceable soul, blues, and rock by this band led by Hoodang bassist McKee. **Aug. 31: Focus: Jazz.** See El Limón.

Ziggy's

206 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsi
ziggysypsi.com

This downtown Ypsi coffeehouse-bar features live music Tues.–Sat. and occasional Sun. & Mon. 8–11 p.m. Cover (usually $5–$10), dancing. **Aug. 1: Blockhouse Valley.** Pop & indie rock covers by the Detroit-area duo of vocalist Ashleigh Glass-Cooper and guitarist Cody Cooper. Openers: veteran local alt-country honky-tonk and rockabilly singer-songwriter **Ryan Racine** and Detroit-area indie folk singer-songwriter **Julia Rose. Aug. 2: Void of Infinite Consequence.** Detroit-area experimental noise-drone death metal band. Openers: **3 the Hard Way** (see Ann Arbor Funhouse) and **Mother Behemoth,** a Detroit-area solo noise and punk project. **Aug. 4: Jazz Jam Session.** With local jazz players TBA. **Aug. 5: "Gear Lords: A Night in Electronic Music."** Monthly performance by live electronic production musicians, using beat machines, samplers, modular systems, synths and similar instruments. **Aug. 6: Set To Spiral.** Ypsilanti hard rock band. Openers: the Detroit rock band **The Dirty News,** the Detroit garage rock duo **Reveries,** and **Andy Godwyn. Aug. 7: Doubles & One.** Detroit area metal band. Openers: Area heavy rock bands **Tell Me When, Calico Stone,** and **Basketcase. Aug. 8: "734 Saturdays."** Open mic, along with a featured performer TBA. Sign-up starts at 7 p.m. Followed by a **"Fun Fest Afterparty"** (see Events listing) with bands TBA. **Aug. 9: Open Mic.** Sign-up starts at 7 p.m. **Aug. 11: Possum Belly.** Detroit-based grungy hard rock band with dusty Americana undertones. Openers: the Detroit blues-rock and southern-rock band **Armada Lodge** and the Livonia alt-rock band **Blind Season.** Followed by stand-up comedy sets by local comics **Alex Bradley, Skippy Rose, Zach Pearlman,** and **Julianna Loera-Wiggins. Aug. 12: "Sound Invaders."** Showcase of ambient and electronic music. Hosted by the local synthwave ambient artist Omo. **Aug. 13: Spiraling Suns.** Local band that plays heavy, melodic guitar-driven rock spiced with progressive and metal elements. Openers: **Media Panic,** a Detroit-area old-school punk band formerly known as The DDTs, and the local rock band **Tin Guns. Aug. 14: The Galloping Hour.** Ypsi indie experimental trio. Openers: the Detroit-area garage rock band **Rat Paws, Jim Cherewick** (see Ann Arbor Funhouse), and **Confusion Reactor,** an Ypsi experimental psychedelic band led by guitarist and electronic musician Thomas Barton. **Aug. 15: A Grim Existence.** Local metal band. Openers: fellow area heavy rock bands **Grand Snake, Fool's Spring,** and **Basket Case. Aug. 16: "The Sunday Circle."** A set by a house band led by local jazz trumpeter Ingrid Racine. Followed by an open mic for vocalists, instrumentalists (including electronic), MCs, & poets. **Aug. 18: Bowling Green Jazz Faculty Ensemble.** With performers TBA. **Aug. 19: David Goyette.** Detroit-area folk-rock singer-guitarist. **Aug. 20: Levona.** Ypsi pop-rock band. Openers: the Flint indie rock band **Lopsider** and the Detroit alt-rock band **Wetbody. Aug. 21: D. Vaughn the Illest.** Detroit hip-hop rapper. Openers: fellow Detroit-area hip-hop acts **Mo Grease, Dre Dav,** and **Teddy Fux and The Fux Boys. Aug. 22: Suburban Delinquents.** Detroit-area punk rock band. Opener: **Lake Ness,** an Ypsi lo-fi bedroom pop trio. **Aug. 25: Max Pastore.** Jazz ensemble led by this Kalamazoo saxophonist. **Aug. 26: Hunter & the HasBeens.** Ypsi rock trio fronted by vocalist Hunter Walrod. Openers: the Ypsi punk & metal band **Berate,** the Taylor thrash-metal band **Convolsis,** and the Detroit deathcore band **Living Dissection. Aug. 27: Cracked & Hooked.** Ypsi rock band whose music is said to occupy the territory "somewhere between Paul Westerberg and Neil Young." Openers: **Kurmudgeon** and **Pillow Princess,** a Detroit-area all-female hardcore band. **Aug. 28: Funderbird.** 90s-inspired postpunk band from Milford. Openers: **Speed Circuit,** a Detroit 90s-style indie rock band, and **Full Time Bionic,** a Detroit-area heavy rock band. **Aug. 29: BlankSlate.** Detroit-based progressive alt-rock band. Openers: **Pillow Princess** (see above), the young local pop-punk trio **Vitascopes,** and psychedelic blues-rock and grunge by the **Will Conrad Band.**

DJs & Dance Clubs

Club Above

215 N. Main (734) 686–4012

This dance club on the top floor of the Heidelberg restaurant features DJs spinning Latin music Fri. & Sat. 9:30 p.m.–1:30 a.m. Cover.

Elks Lodge

220 Sunset (734) 761–7172

This basement venue in the James L. Crawford Elks Lodge rec room features a lineup of local house DJs Thurs. and occasional music other nights. Free.

Necto

516 E. Liberty (734) 994–5835

This popular dance club features local and nationally known DJs 3 nights a week: Mon., Fri., & Sat. 9 p.m.–2 a.m. Also, occasional live shows. Cover.

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ABBIE BUHR

parkrun USA holds their timed but noncompetitive 5K run/walk every Saturday at Lillie Park South.

TIPS FOR READING

Published events reflect plans as of press day (July 20), while the most up-to-date calendar is available at **annarborobserver.com.**

Our online calendar is not only an expanded version of the print calendar but is also continually updated and searchable. It includes listings, submitted by the public, of events not listed in print.

★ **Denotes a free event**

Pink highlight denotes a notable event.

Yellow highlight denotes an event listed on a2tix.

Recurrent events are listed only on the date of their first occurrence, except for performing arts, which are always listed on each day they occur. Thus, the first week of each month will always contain information about events throughout the month.

We want to know about your event!
Please send us your press release by the **10th day of the preceding month.**

- **Email:** events@aaobserver.com
- **Phone:** (734) 769–3175

What gets in?

We give priority to Ann Arbor entertainment and other leisure events, but we also list activities elsewhere in Washtenaw County of interest to our readers.

Please submit listings as early as possible; items submitted after the 10th might not be included in print, but may be added to our online calendar.

Due to space limitations, many listings, especially for weekday daytime and recurrent events, appear only in the online calendar.

1 SATURDAY

★**Group Runs: Ann Arbor Running Company (AARC).** *Every Sat., Mon., & Thurs. (different AARC locations).* Runners of all abilities invited to join either a beginner or advanced group run (Sat.) or a 5K mapped route (Thurs. & Mon.). *AARC Traver Village (7 a.m. Sat.), 901 W. Eisenhower; Corner Brewery (6 p.m. Mon.), 720 Norris, Ypsi; and AARC Colonnade (6 p.m. Thurs.), 2621 Plymouth Rd. Free. annarborrunningcompany.com.*

★**parkrun USA.** *Every Sat.* All invited to join a timed but noncompetitive 5K run/walk. *8 a.m., Lillie Park South, 4365 Platt. Free, but first-timers are requested to preregister at parkrun.us/lillie and arrive at 7:45 a.m. lillie@parkrun.com.*

★**"Dexter/Chelsea Saturday Morning Breakfast Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** *Every Sat.* Moderate-paced ride, 20 miles or more, to Dexter and beyond. Pack something to eat or stop in Dexter or Chelsea for coffee or breakfast. *Note:* Riders should be prepared to take care of themselves on all AABTS rides. Carry a water bottle, a spare tire or tube, a pump, a cell phone, and snacks. See aabts.org for weather cancelations or delays. *8 a.m. sharp, meet at Barton Nature Area parking lot, W. Huron River Dr. near Bird. Free. (734) 649–9762, kmmcguinn@comcast.net.*

★**Dressage Shows: Waterloo Hunt Club.** *July 31–Aug. 2 & Aug. 13–16.* Equine competition combining artistry and technical abilities highlighted by graceful freestyle routines set to music. No pets. Concessions. *8 a.m.–5 p.m., 11500 Glenn at Katz (west off Mount Hope Rd. from I-94 exit 150), Grass Lake. Free. info@horseshowoffice.com.*

★**Equestrian Competition: Cobblestone Farms at Revel Run.** *July 31–Aug. 2.* As many as 250 horses and riders enter this U.S. Equestrian Federation competition. Features dressage and stadium jumping, along with a cross-country phase that involves a mile-long gallop and jumping into water over barriers called "questions," including logs, boulders, ditches, and banks. Refreshments. Pets must be on leash. *9 a.m.–5 p.m., Revel Run, 555 S. Dancer, Chelsea. Free. (734) 395–2633.*

★**"Morning Music @9:29": Northside Community Church.** Pianist Samantha Mecca performs works by Ludovico Einaudi, Max Richter, Erik Satie, and Leoš Janáček. Coffee & refreshments. *9:29 a.m., 929 Barton. Free, donations or breakfast goodies welcome. kgoodson@umich.edu.*

★**"Vet Fest": Washtenaw Community College.** Outdoor festival with live country & Americana music by Detroit singer-songwriter **Gavin Flynn.** Also, carnival games, kids activities, martial arts demos, military dog training demos, and more in celebration of U.S. military veterans. Free food. Info: tinyurl.com/wcc-vetfest-2026. *10 a.m.–2 p.m., 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Free. (734) 677–5295.*

★**Chime Concert: Kerrytown Market & Shops.** *Every Sat., Fri., & Wed.* All invited to play one of 200 songs, with melodies transcribed in numbers, on the 17-bell chime's numbered keys. Ambitious players can add chords. Kids welcome. *10:30–11 a.m. (Sat.) & noon–12:30 p.m. (Wed. & Fri.). Free. ofglobal@aol.com.*

Ann Arbor Taco Fest. *July 31–Aug. 2 (different programs).* Mexican American cultural festival featuring over 30 taco trucks, two bars, lucha libre pro wrestling, kids activities, contests, and live music on two stages. Today: Dance performances by **Ballet Folklórico de Detroit** (11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., & 6:30 p.m.), Latin rock from Detroit area band **Expedition** (12:15 p.m.), classic rock by southwest Detroit band **Mondo Kane** (2:45 & 5:15 p.m.), Latin favorites spun by **DJ Cisco** (7:45 p.m.), and a solo mariachi performance by Grand Rapids musician **Gabe Estrada.** *5–10 p.m. (Fri.), 11 a.m.–10 p.m. (Sat.), & 11 a.m.–7 p.m. (Sun.), Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Tickets $8 in advance ($10 at the gate; parking pass, $5) at annarbortacofest.com.*

"Only in Ann Arbor" Event of the Month

Project Grow invites all to compare tastes of heirloom tomato varietals at its Annual Tomato Tasting, County Farm Park on Aug. 23.

★**"Nature Lab": U-M Museum of Natural History.** *Every Tues.–Sun.* All age 6 & up invited into the museum's labs to use scientific tools and museum specimens. The newest program lets participants try out simulated **snake senses** to experience the world as if they were a snake. No live snakes. *11 a.m.–3 p.m., 1105 North University. Free. (734) 764–0478, ummnh.org.*

Critter House Open Hours: Leslie Science & Nature Center. *Every Sat. & Sun., except Aug. 16.* A chance to view LSNC birds of prey and its Critter House animals, which include frogs, turtles, snakes, and other species native to Michigan. *Noon–3 p.m., 1831 Traver. $5 suggested donation. (734) 997–1553, lesliesnc.org.*

"Creature Encounters & Adult Open Hours": The Creature Conservancy. *Every Sat. & Sun. and Fri. Aug. 7 & 21.* On Sat. and Sun., conservancy staffers present and give insights into some animals with superpowers, including an **African crested porcupine,** a **three-banded armadillo,** and a **frilled dragon** at 1 & 4 p.m., and an animal keeper shows a **Gila monster** at 2 & 3 p.m. During the **Friday Adult Open Hours** (age 18+ only), conservancy staffers show all four animals at 7:30 p.m. All tickets include a chance to see the conservancy's other animals. *Noon–5 p.m. (Sat. & Sun.) & 7–9 p.m. (Fri.), 4950 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. $15 (kids ages 2–12, $13; under age 2, free) cash or credit at the door only. (734) 929–9324, thecreatureconservancy.org.*

"Pride Craft Carnival": Ann Arbor Art Center. All age 7 & up invited to join this drop-in crafting event to make block printed bandanas, ceramic worry stones, or buttons, guided by A2AC artists. Supplies provided. *Noon–2:30 p.m., 117 W. Liberty. $15 (one project), $25 (both bandana & worry stone projects), or free (buttons only) at the front desk only. Space limited; no preregistration and no admission after 2 p.m. (734) 994–8004.*

U-M Museum of Natural History Planetarium & Dome Theater. *Every Tues.–Sun.* Three different audiovisual planetarium shows suitable for all ages. ***We Are Stars*** (noon) explores the secrets of our cosmic chemistry and our explosive origins, connecting life on Earth to the evolution of the universe; ***The Sky Tonight*** (1 & 3 p.m.) explores the current night sky, with tips on how to find the cardinal directions, constellations, and planets on your own; and ***T. Rex*** (2 p.m.) describes the iconic dinosaur's scientific and cinematic history (includes scenes of dinosaur violence). *Noon, 1, 2, & 3 p.m., 1105 North University. $8 at the gift shop. Limited capacity. (734) 764–0480, ummnh.org.*

★**Ann Arbor Pride: Jim Toy Community Center.** One of Michigan's largest Pride celebrations, this annual LGBTQ+ community party features drag performer **Latrice Royale,** who has competed on *RuPaul's Drag Race,*

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ums

September

The Cleveland Orchestra

FRANZ WELSER-MÖST, music director and conductor

Fri Sep 25
Hill Auditorium

October

Bruce Hornsby & The Noisemakers

Fri Oct 2
Hill Auditorium

Marks of RED Shamel Pitts | TRIBE

Sat-Sun Oct 3-4
Power Center

Samara Joy

Fri Oct 9
Hill Auditorium

October *Cont.*

Lupita Infante *y su mariachi*

Sat Oct 17
Hill Auditorium

Sphinx Virtuosi featuring J'Nai Bridges, mezzo-soprano

Sun Oct 18
Rackham Auditorium

UMS150 Dance Commission & World Premiere

The Rose Sonata

SARA MEARNS, New York City Ballet principal dancer
BOBBI JENE SMITH AND OR SCHRAIBER, choreographers

Fri-Sat Oct 23-24
Power Center

Bruce Liu, piano

Wed Oct 28
Hill Auditorium

November

Julian Lage with Medeski, Roeder, & Wollesen

Sat Nov 7
Michigan Theater

Escher Quartet Jason Vieaux, guitar

Sun Nov 8
Rackham Auditorium

November *Cont.*

Mozart's Requiem

ANN ARBOR SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
UMS CHORAL UNION
EARL LEE, conductor

Fri Nov 13
Hill Auditorium

Andy Akiho and Sandbox Percussion

Sun Nov 15
Rackham Auditorium

Jack Tucker Comedy Standup Show

Created and performed by **ZACH ZUCKER**

Wed-Sun Nov 18-22
Arthur Miller Theatre

December

Handel's *Messiah*

ANN ARBOR SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
UMS CHORAL UNION
SCOTT HANOIAN, conductor

Sat-Sun Dec 5-6
Hill Auditorium

Yo-Yo Ma, cello Emanuel Ax, piano

Thu Dec 10
Hill Auditorium

Isidore String Quartet Anthony McGill, clarinet

Fri Dec 18
Rackham Auditorium

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Tickets

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January

Watch Me Walk

Written and performed by
ANNE GRIDLEY
Directed by **ERIC TING**

Thu-Sun Jan 21-24
Arthur Miller Theatre

C4 Trío

Thu Jan 28
Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre

When I Saw the Sea

ALI CHAHROUR,
director and choreographer
Music composed and performed by
LYNN ADIB and **ABED KOBEISSY**

Fri-Sat Jan 29-30
Power Center

February

Berlin and Beyond: Titans of Brass + Organ with Paul Jacobs, organ

Thu Feb 4
Hill Auditorium

Takács Quartet
Jeremy Denk, piano

Fri Feb 5
Rackham Auditorium

Joyce DiDonato in Henry Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas*

JOYCE DIDONATO, mezzo-soprano
NICHOLAS PHAN, tenor
IL POMO D'ORO ORCHESTRA AND CHOIR
MAXIM EMELYANYCHEV, conductor

Sun Feb 7
Hill Auditorium

Gregory Porter

Thu Feb 11
Hill Auditorium

Ralph Vaughan Williams *A Sea Symphony*

ANN ARBOR SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
UMS CHORAL UNION
SCOTT HANOIAN, conductor
CHRISTINE GOERKE, soprano
NORMAN GARRETT, baritone

Sat Feb 13
Hill Auditorium

February *Cont.*

300 Paintings

Created and performed by
SAM KISSAJUKIAN

Thu-Sun Feb 18-21
Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre

J.S. Bach's *St. Matthew Passion*

MONTEVERDI CHOIR
ENGLISH BAROQUE SOLOISTS
MASAAKI SUZUKI, conductor

Sat Feb 20
Hill Auditorium

TREES

Directed and performed by
SAM GREEN
Written by **SAM GREEN** and
REBECCA SOLNIT

Sat Feb 27
Michigan Theater

March

London Symphony Orchestra

SIR ANTONIO PAPPANO, music director and chief conductor
MAXIM VENGEROV, violin

Wed Mar 3
Hill Auditorium

London Symphony Orchestra

SIR ANTONIO PAPPANO, music director and chief conductor
ALISA WEILERSTEIN, cello

Thu Mar 4
Hill Auditorium

Seong-Jin Cho, piano

Sun Mar 14
Hill Auditorium

The Mad Lover
Théotime Langlois de Swarte, violin
Thomas Dunford, lute

Wed Mar 17
Rackham Auditorium

April

New Works by Lucinda Childs
Gibney Dance Company

LUCINDA CHILDS, resident choreographer

Fri-Sat Apr 2-3
Power Center

Yuja Wang, piano

Thu Apr 8
Hill Auditorium

Audra McDonald

Sun Apr 18
Hill Auditorium

Rosamunde String Quartet

Thu Apr 22
Rackham Auditorium

The Ever Fonky Lowdown
Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis and Wendell Pierce

Sat Apr 24
Hill Auditorium

Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis

Sun Apr 25
Hill Auditorium

The Butterfly Who Flew Into the Rave

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10
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6PM AWARDS CEREMONY
THE MICHIGAN ROOM, SHERATON HOTEL | 3200 BOARDWALK DRIVE
For complete rules and guidelines, visit aadl.org/LEGO

★ *Denotes a free event*

and **Dominique Jackson,** who appeared on the FX series *Pose* and was the NYC Pride 2026 grand marshal. Michigan drag performers include Mutha Auroara Manifesto, Crystal Harding, Vivian Aphrodisia, and many others. Also, live music by the **Out Loud Chorus,** sets by DJ Maxx T and other DJs, and burlesque performances. For kids, drag story time and a kids zone until 6 p.m. Food vendors. Full schedule at annarborpride.com. *Noon–9 p.m., intersection of Main and Liberty, & east on Liberty. Free. annarborpride.com.*

★**"Megafauna Mystery": U-M Museum of Natural History Discovery Demos.** *Every Sat. & Sun.* Hands-on 20-minute family-oriented demo for kids age 5 & up that uses museum specimens to explore paleontology and what can be learned from giant bones and fossils. *12:30 & 2:30 p.m., 1105 North University. Free. (734) 764–0478, ummnh.org.*

Jig Backup for Strummers: Ann Arbor Community for Traditional Music and Dance. Acoustic strummers of all experience levels are invited to learn how to back up a jig, especially for contra dance tunes. Slumberjack Radio multi-instrumentalist Steve Pasque leads listening and technique development exercises, along with an exploration of rhythm-playing for contra dances. *12:30–2:20 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. $15 or pay what you can. Free. (734) 709–8748.*

★**Union Base Ball Club of Dexter vs. Wyandotte Stars Base Ball Club.** This 14-year-old club plays baseball using 1860s-era rules against similar teams from around the region, today against Wyandotte's 19-year-old team. The month's remaining home games include one against the **Monitor Base Ball Club of Chelsea** (Aug. 8), and the **Wahoo Base Ball Club of Royal Oak** (Aug. 29). *1 p.m., Webster Township Hall, 5665 Webster Church Rd., Dexter. Free. unionbbc@gmail.com, unionbbc.com.*

★**"Embracing the Imperfect: Creating Texture on Press": Ann Arbor District Library.** Detroit print shop Signal Return founder Liz Isakson-Dado and printmaker Maddy Underwood discuss how to create textured backgrounds for letterpress posters. Followed by a chance to make an original print. Adults only. This program will take the entire time to complete. *1–5 p.m., AADL Downtown, Secret Lab. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

4th Annual Bluegrass Jamboree: The Webster Township Historical Society. Live traditional bluegrass performances by Mount Pleasant–based **The Crain Family** (2:15 p.m.), **The Outfit** (3:20 p.m.) from Flint, and Michigan supergroups **Uphill River** (4:35 pm.) and **Wilson Thicket** (5:40 p.m.). Attendees are invited to bring acoustic instruments and chairs to join jam circles around the village. Also, children's activities include one-room schoolhouse sessions and a bluegrass instrument zoo. The historic village buildings are open, with blacksmithing demos, banjo construction demos, a general store, and more. Food concessions. *2–7 p.m., Historic Webster Village, 5583 Webster Church Rd., Dexter. $15 in advance (age 12 & under, free) at websterstownshiphistoricalsociety.org or $20 at the gate. thelma@webstervillage.org.*

6th Annual River Rhythm Music & Arts Festival. *July 31 & Aug. 1.* Two days of music on a private riverside property near Manchester. Also yoga, craft sales, songwriting & drumming workshops, face painting, henna, food trucks, and more. Camping available (tents, free; RVs, $12). Today: Michigan neo-soul and R&B singer **Raven Rae** (noon), the local country-inflected folk-rock quintet **Misty Lyn & the Big Beautiful** (1:30 p.m.), harmonically intricate originals by the local acoustic Americana ensemble **The Wildflowers** (3 p.m.), the Chelsea bluegrass and country-folk quartet **Kedron** (4:30 p.m.), the Northern Michigan indie folk-rock duo **The Fridays** (7 p.m.), the Grand Rapids country-folk & Americana band **Nicholas James and the Bandwagon** (8:30 p.m.), and the **Gasoline Gypsies** (10 p.m.), a polished Port Huron rock 'n' roll quartet known for its tasty rhythms, dual lead guitars, and 4-part harmonies. *3–10 p.m. (Fri.) & noon–11 p.m. (Sat.), location provided after ticket purchase. Weekend pass, $92 (kids 15 & under, $12); Sat. only, $62, in advance only at riverretreatsllc.com. riverretreatsllc@gmail.com.*

★**Pittsfield Open Band: Ann Arbor Community for Traditional Music and Dance.** *Aug. 1 & 15.* Jam session open to all musicians interested in working on jigs, reels, and waltzes to have fun, learn tunes, and develop contra dance music skills. All instruments welcome. Bring the *Ruffwater Fakebook*, the *Portland Collection*, and the *Waltz Books* if you have them. *3–5 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Masking optional. Free. (734) 709–8748.*

★**"Music in the Air": Chelsea District Library.** Concert of four-hand and solo classical piano music TBA by the Italian brother-sister duo **Jacopo & Maddalena Giacopuzzi,** each an internationally acclaimed pianist. *3–4 p.m., Chelsea First United Methodist Church, 128 Park, Chelsea. Free. (734) 475–8732, chelseadistrictlibrary.libnet.info/events.*

"Emma's Wedding(s)": Purple Rose Theatre Company. *Every Wed.–Sun., June 25–Aug. 30. (See review, pg. 53.)* Kate Thomsen directs longtime Purple Rose resident playwright Carey Crim's comedy-drama about a group of old friends gathered to celebrate their friend Emma's fourth wedding. Together, they revisit their memories of each of her previous three weddings to "the one." Adult language and subject matter. *3 p.m. (Wed., Thurs., & Sat.), 8 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.), & 2 p.m. (Sun.). 137 Park St., Chelsea. Tickets $31.50–$52.50 in advance at purplerosetheatre.org, (734) 433–7673, & (if available) at the door. Discounts available.*

"Athena": Theatre Nova. *Every Fri.–Sun., July 17–Aug. 9. (See review, pg. 49.)* Shelby R. Seeley directs Gracie Gardner's play about two competitive teenage girl fencers training for the Junior Olympics. As they spar and navigate a tricky new friendship, each grows in both athletic ability and self-confidence. The *New York Times* calls it "hugely appealing and stealthily moving." *3 p.m. (Sat.), 8 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.), & 2 p.m. (Sun.), 410 W. Huron St. Tickets $30 (age 65 & older, $25; students with ID, $15 at the door) in advance at theatrenova.org/season11 & (if available) at the door. (734) 635–8450.*

★**"Rath Yatra": International Society for Krishna Consciousness Farmington Hills Temple.** Rath Yatra, or the Festival of Chariots, is a centuries-old tradition from eastern India featuring traditional Hare Krishna live music and dance performances, kids games and crafts, vegetarian Indian food for sale, mantra meditation, and henna painting. The highlight is a chance to join other festival goers in pulling an elaborately decorated chariot that holds representations of deities. *5–9 p.m., Lillie Park South, 4365 Platt. Free. iskconfarmingtonhills.com.*

Magic: The Gathering (MTG): Sylvan Factory. *Every Wed., Fri., & Sat.* All invited to play both casual and tournament forms of the collectible card game MTG. *Wed. & Sat. (5 p.m.):* **"Commander."** A drop-in session of the most popular form of the game. Free. *Wed. (6 p.m.):* **"Pauper."** A fun and fast format for all skill levels, three rounds. $5. *Wed. (6:30 p.m.):* **"Standard."** Three rounds, with competitive tournament rules, prizes of store credit. $10. *Fri. (6:30 p.m.):* **"Friday Night Draft."** Cost and format vary. *Various times, 2459 W. Stadium. (734) 929–5877, sylvanfactory.com.*

"The Sound of Music": Father Gabriel Richard High School Dramalums. *July 30–Aug. 2.* Elizabeth Champion directs Gabriel Richard students and recent grads in Rodgers and Hammerstein's beloved 1959 musical set in 1938 Austria about an irrepressible novice nun assigned to be governess to the children of a stern widower with whom she unwittingly falls in love. *7 p.m. (Thurs.–Sat.) & 2 p.m. (Sun.), Milan High School, 200 Big Red Dr,*

Milan. Tickets $15 (kids, $7; families, $25) in advance at fgrhs.org/drama & at the door. echampion@fgrhs.org.

Drew Thomas: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *July 31 & Aug. 1.* Witty, smooth-voiced Jamaica-born comic delivers sharp, observational comedy on topics from dating women with precocious children to why every Black person should have a few white friends. Opening act TBA. *7:15 & 9:45 p.m., 212 S. Fourth Ave. $20 (Sat., $22) at aacomedy.com & (if available) at the door. (734) 996–9080.*

First Saturday Contra Dance: Ann Arbor Community for Traditional Music and Dance. Maeve Devlin calls to music by Pimento Mori. Bring clean shoes for dancing. *7:30–10:30 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. $10–$15 suggested donation. (734) 274–0773, aactmad.org.*

"Drum & Dance Jam": Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth. All invited to join a group drumming session led by percussionist Curtis Glatter. Also, undirected free-form dancing, if you wish. No experience required. Bring your own drum or use one provided. *7:30–9 p.m., 704 Airport Blvd, ste. 1. $5 suggested donation. (734) 327–0270.*

Jess Merritt: Rancho Tranquilico. Barn concert by this soulful-voiced local singer-songwriter whose music draws on jazz, classical, pop, and R&B idioms to sustain lyrical journeys of self-discovery. BYOB. No tobacco products or pets. *8 p.m. (gates open at 7:30), 11300 Island Lake Rd., Dexter. Parking is in neighboring Ruhlig's Country Market driveway. $25 in advance only (space limited) via Venmo: @jess-oberholtzer. (734) 223–2321, treemore13@gmail.com.*

"Saturday Night Improv: Double Header": Hear.Say Brewing + Theater. *Every Sat.* Rotating lineup of two local improv troupes. *8:30 p.m., 2350 W. Liberty. $10 in advance at heardotsay.com/events & $12 (if available) at the door.*

2 SUNDAY

★**Ann Arbor Group Runs: Fleet Feet.** *Every Sun., Tues., & Wed.* Runners of all

theater review

Touché, My Friend

Athena *at Theatre Nova*

One of my favorite things about Theatre Nova is that it will never shy away from an unconventional story. Its latest production, Gracie Gardner's *Athena*, is just that: a coming-of-age fencing dramedy that debuted to rapturous reviews off-off-Broadway in 2018.

Directed by Shelby Seeley, whose program bio says she specializes in "violently tender, ferally-feminine theatre," this one-act tells the story of seventeen-year-old épée fencers Athena (Jen Pan) and Mary Wallace (Brittany Batell). After defeating Mary Wallace (the character's full first name) in a tournament, Athena is impressed with her skill and insists they train together for the upcoming semifinals. Their lives are otherwise very different: Athena resides in Manhattan with a distant single father; Mary Wallace, with her close-knit family in suburban Teaneck, New Jersey. Over the following months, an intense, competitive friendship develops between the two. (Amanda Buchalter appears late in the play as Jamie, another competitor.)

Despite the title, Mary Wallace is the true protagonist of *Athena.* An aspiring marine biologist, she's as tightly wound as her French braid. It would be easy for such a character to be flattened into a snooty high achiever, but Batell's vulnerable, wide-eyed performance lets her develop into something more complex: naive, clever, romantic, passionate, silly. Meanwhile, Pan's Athena, with her dip-dyed ponytail and punk-rock undercut hairstyle, is insecure and aggrieved. She fights dirty and talks dirtier. Pan is affecting and very funny, but Athena's dialogue suggests explosiveness and volatility that I didn't see in Pan's performance.

Seeley's direction is at its best when her actresses are given something physical to do, whether sparring in the fencing gym or dancing in a nightclub. Pan is cofounder of the Ypsi stage combat troupe Theatrica Gladiatoria—Batell and Buchalter trained there—and you believe these characters are ambitious and talented fencers.

SEAN CARTER

Brittany Batell and Jen Pan in *Athena* at Theatre Nova July 17–Aug. 9

I did not, however, believe that they were seventeen years old. Much of this is due to Gardner's exceedingly chatty script that renders these high school juniors implausibly worldly, articulate, and self-aware. The dialogue has a precocious, how-do-you-do-fellow-kids quality, as though written by an adult who doesn't interact much with teenagers nowadays, but is pretty sure they love discussing postmodernism, Audrey Hepburn in *Roman Holiday,* and the feminist bona fides of *Game of Thrones.*

The action takes place on a narrow set (by Amanda Bates) made to resemble a fencing piste, with risers on either side. (There is no room even for audience bathroom breaks; if anyone had to leave, warned an usher beforehand, the show would need to pause.) This works great for dynamic sequences, but when the performers are static, it becomes more challenging—especially for audience members in higher rows. My view was blocked no fewer than a dozen times by the wooden support beam in front of my seat; during the handful of scenes when characters are sitting on the floor, I couldn't see the action at all.

The costume and lighting design (by Michaella Victoria and Jade Guerriero, respectively) is simple and beautiful, rendered in synthwave colors—Athena is associated with hot pink; Mary Wallace, electric blue. You don't need to know anything about fencing to follow the sparring scenes, with the necessary information conveyed through flashes of color and gentle audio cues (Kennikki Jones-Jones has a knack for designing subtle, believable soundscapes).

Athena becomes something truly special when it stops talking, gives itself room to breathe, and allows these likable characters to do what they do best: fight each other with swords. The fencing sequences, choreographed by Joe Wright, are fabulously engaging; I could have used twice as many. Far and away the most riveting scene—on its own worth the ticket price—is the "final battle" between Athena and Mary Wallace, which held the audience rapt until we finally burst into cheers.

People were abuzz with happy energy as we filed out of the theater, which is probably the best review a play like this can earn. The story of a female friendship told through combat sports is a fascinating hook, and *Athena* is a worthy addition to Theatre Nova's lineup.

—Emily Pinsuwan

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veteransradio.org

★ *Denotes a free event*

abilities invited to join a run of 3–5 miles along varying routes from different locations. Rain or shine. *Dozer Coffee (8 a.m. Sun. & 7 a.m. Tues.), 112 Jackson Plz., (734) 929–9022 & Fleet Feet (7 p.m. Wed.), 123 E. Liberty, (734) 769–5016. Free. fleetfeetsemichigan.com.*

Elemental Ecstatic Dance. *Every Sun.* Dancers of all ages and abilities invited for free-form dancing to a variety of recorded music, from EDM to classical and ambient to world music. Wear loose clothes, barefoot or stocking feet. *10:45 a.m.–1 p.m. A2 Yoga, 2030 Commerce. $20 (age 11 & under, free) cash or Venmo (@andjru) at the door only. tinyurl.com/ecstatic-dance-a2.*

Sunday Artisan Market. *Every Sun.* Juried market of local handmade arts and crafts, now in its 35th year. *11 a.m.–4 p.m., Kerrytown Farmers Market pavilion. Free admission. (734) 913–9622.*

Ann Arbor Taco Fest. See 1 Saturday. Today: Dance party spun by **DJ Cisco** (noon), mariachi by **Mariachi Jalisco de Detroit** (1:15 p.m.), Latin rock from Detroit area band **Expedition** (4:15 p.m.), Detroit jazz vocalist **Sheila Landis** (5:30 p.m.), and Afro-Cuban jazz by Detroit-area sextet **Tumbao Bravo** (6 p.m.). 11 a.m.–7 p.m.

★**H.A.C. Ultimate.** *Every Sun.* All invited to a relaxed pickup game of this spirited team sport played with a flying disc. Note: Overly competitive players are politely asked to leave. *11:15 a.m., Fuller Park, just west of the pool & parking lot (or occasionally across the street). Free. (734) 846–9418, hac-ultimatelist@googlegroups.com.*

★**"Community Music Making with NeuroArts": Ann Arbor District Library.** Local cellist & music therapist Grace Frielink and singer & multi-instrumentalist Sasha Gusikhin lead an all-ages collaborative music making session. Instruments provided. *Noon–1 p.m., AADL Downtown, lower level program rm. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**Open Board Games: Sylvan Factory.** *Every Sun.* All invited to play one of a wide variety of board games in a casual, friendly atmosphere. Instruction provided. Also, on Aug. 2, **game playtesting with Michigame Design Lab** (2 p.m.), during which players are invited to try out new board and card games from local designers Bruce Bielawa & Joe Hopkins and provide feedback. *Noon–6 p.m., 2459 W. Stadium. Free. sylvanfactory.com.*

Ann Arbor Pride Brunch: Sidetrack Bar & Grill. Headliner is drag performer **Latrice Royale,** who has competed on *RuPaul's Drag Race*. With local performers Erika Norell, Teri Vanessa Coleman, Shae Shae LaReese, Natalie Cole, and Avalisa D. Colby. Hosted by Jadein Black and Dominique Jackson. Seating at noon. Age 18 & up. *12:30 p.m., 56 E. Cross, Ypsi. Tickets $45 at tinyurl.com/a2pride-dragbrunch.*

"Humane Fair": SASHA Farm Fundraiser. A chance to meet the farm's rescued animals. Games & activities. Vegan lunch and baked goods. All funds go to support this farm animal sanctuary. No dogs. *1–4 p.m., 17901 Mahrle, Manchester. $35 (kids ages 5–10, $10; kids 4 & under, free) in advance at sashafarm.org or at the gate. (734) 218–8897, office@sashafarm.org.*

★**Drop-in Knitting: Spun.** *Every Sun.–Thurs. (different times).* All invited to work on their knitting, crochet, weaving, and embroidery projects. *1–3 p.m. (Sun.) & 6–8 p.m. (Mon.–Thurs.), 401 N. Fourth Ave. Free. (734) 780–7867.*

★**"Walking with Whales Tour": U-M Museum of Natural History.** *Every Sun.* Thirty-minute tour that uses the museum's specimens to tell the story of prehistoric whales and dolphins, who had 4 limbs and walked on land. *1:30 p.m., 1105 North University. Free. Limited capacity. Sign up at the welcome desk. (734) 764–0478.*

"Emma's Wedding(s)": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 2 p.m.

"Athena": Theatre Nova. See 1 Saturday. 2 p.m.

"The Sound of Music": Father Gabriel Richard High School Dramalums. See 1 Saturday. 2 p.m.

★**"What Did the Vikings Eat?": Ann Arbor District Library.** Michigan Viking Alliance representatives discuss what foods medieval Scandinavians ate and how they prepared their meals. *4–5 p.m., AADL Downtown, 4th fl. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**"Cosplay Wig Styling": Ann Arbor District Library.** Local cosplay enthusiast Ana Hotaling shares tips and tricks for styling wigs for cosplay. *4–5 p.m., AADL Pittsfield. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**"Animation August": Marquee Arts Community Film Club.** Discussion, trivia, games, and a costume contest. Followed by the 7 p.m. screening of a movie (at the Michigan Theater's regular ticket price) to be chosen by Film Club vote; vote when you reserve a spot. *5 p.m., Michigan Theater Screening Rm. Free, preregistration required at marquee-arts.org/calendar.*

★**LEGO Contest Awards Ceremony: Ann Arbor District Library.** Announcement of the winners of the 21st annual AADL LEGO Contest in 6 categories: adult, preschool, and grades K–2, 3–5, 6–8, & 9–12. Also, public display (4–6:30 p.m.) of all the entries, which must be delivered to the Sheraton Hotel, 9 a.m.–1 p.m. today. Rules and guidelines available at aadl.org. *6 p.m., Sheraton Hotel, 3200 Boardwalk. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

"Extra Credit": Hear.Say Brewing + Theater. Three 10-minute academic lectures by U-M researchers on topics TBA, each followed by a 10-minute improv comedy set on the topic by experienced improvisers. *6:30–7:30 p.m., 2350 W. Liberty. $15 in advance at heardotsay.com/events & $18 (if available) at the door.*

Ballroom Dance Club at the U-M. *Every Sun.* Ballroom dancing to recorded music, including foxtrots, waltzes, cha-chas, rumbas, tangos, swing, and more. No partner necessary. Preceded at 6 p.m. by beginning lessons and practice. *7–9 p.m., Michigan Union Ballroom. $5 ($10 includes lessons). (734) 763–6984.*

★**Traditional Irish Session: Conor O'Neill's.** *Every Sun.* All invited to join or listen to an instrumental jam session. *7–9 p.m., 318 S. Main. Free. (734) 665–2968.*

3 MONDAY

★**"Independence Lake Gravel Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** *Every Mon.* Slow/moderate-paced 23-mile ride to Independence Lake on mostly dirt roads. See aabts.org for weather cancelations or delays. *9 a.m. sharp, meet at Old St. Patrick Catholic Church, 5671 Whitmore Lake Rd. Free. (412) 302–9960.*

Duplicate Bridge: Ann Arbor Senior Center. *Every Mon. & Thurs.* Play open to all skill levels age 18 & up, both non-sanctioned (Mon.) and ACBL-sanctioned (Thurs.). *Noon–3:30 p.m. (Thurs., $9) & 12:30–3:30 p.m. (Mon., $5); $1–$2 less for AASC members. 1320 Baldwin. (734) 794–6250, a2gov.org/senior, annarborbridge.com.*

★**Group Ride: Ann Arbor Velo Club.** *Every Mon.* Moderate-paced 20-mile ride to Dexter and back, often with a rest stop along the way. Riders must wear a helmet and bring water and supplies to fix a flat tire. *6 p.m. (nonmembers must come 10 minutes early to sign a club waiver), Barton Nature Area, 1010 W. Huron River Dr. Free. annarborveloclub.org.*

★**Sewing Lab: Ann Arbor District Library.** *Aug. 3, 17, & 31.* Adults and kids grade 6 & up invited to get basic sewing help with their unfinished projects or learn how to use the AADL sewing machines. Bring your own sewing machine, if you wish. No experience necessary. Also, crafter Amber Adams-Fall demonstrates **French seams** (Aug. 3) and **flat felled seams** (Aug. 31) and sewing instructor Rae Hoekstra discusses **sleeve insertion** (Aug. 17). *6–7:30 p.m., AADL Downtown, Secret Lab. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**Fiber Arts Drop-in: Dzanc House.** *Aug. 3 & 17.* All invited to join in crocheting, knitting, embroidering, etc. *6–9 p.m., 402 S. Huron St., Ypsi. Free. dzanchouse.org.*

★**Group Runs: A2 Runners.** *Every Mon. & Wed.* Runners of all abilities invited to join a beginner or advanced 3- to 5-mile group run, followed by socializing at a downtown coffee shop. *6:30 p.m., meet at the Kerrytown Clock Tower. Preregistration requested at meetup.com/a2runners. Free. stevesttn88@gmail.com.*

"Japanese Gothic": Literati Bookstore Genres Book Club. All invited to join a discussion of Kylie Lee Baker's 2026 folk horror novel, set in Japan across 2 timelines, about murder, mythology, and family duty. *6:30 p.m., 124 E. Washington. Tickets $5 only in advance at literatibookstore.com (can be redeemed for store credit). (734) 585–5567.*

★**Summer Carillon Concert Series: U-M Music School.** U-M carillon grad student Austin Zhu, and others TBA, play Lurie Tower's prized set of 60 Dutch bells. For best acoustics, sit far enough away from the tower to have a direct line of sight to the bells. *7 p.m., Lurie Tower, 1230 Murfin. Free. michigancarillons@gmail.com.*

Community Summer Sing: Ann Arbor Civic Chorus. All invited to join this local choir in an evening of singing an eclectic repertoire from Renaissance madrigals to musical theater. *7–9 p.m., Forsythe Middle School Auditorium, 1655 Newport. $15; preregistration required at aarecedonline.com/adultclasses. (734) 994–1985, a2civicchorus@gmail.com, a2civicchorus.weebly.com.*

Haydn's "Paukenmesse": UMS Choral Union Summer Sings. All singers welcome to join WSU conducting professor Erika Tazawa in a casual sing-through of Haydn's Mass in C Major, officially titled *Missa in tempore belli (Mass in Time of War),* celebrated as one of his greatest choral masterpieces, written in 1796 during the Napoleonic Wars. No auditions required; music provided (or bring your own, if you have it). Refreshments. Spectators welcome. Registration at 6:30 p.m. *7–9:30 p.m., U-M Palmer Commons, Great Lakes Rm., 4th fl., 100 Washtenaw Ave. $5 sheet music fee at the door only. Spectators free. (734) 763–8997, events.umich.edu/event/148088.*

Tartan and Thistle Scottish Country Dancers. *Every Mon.* Learn to dance jigs, reels, and strathspeys. All dances taught. Usually with live music by Susie Lorand, Josh Burdick, and friends. *7:30–9:30 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. $10 suggested donation (first-timers free). (734) 274–0773.*

★**"Treetown Pub Sing": Conor O'Neill's.** All invited to sing or listen to rousing choruses, drinking songs, sea shanties, and folk songs. Bring a song to share. No lyric sheets. Choose a song with a chorus or repeating lines so the rest of the room can easily join in. *7:30–9 p.m., 318 S. Main. Free. (734) 665–2968.*

★**Comedy Show: The Blind Pig.** *Every Mon.* Performances from up to 15 aspiring stand-up comics from around the state. Local comics emcee. Age 21 & up only. Free candy. *8–9:30 p.m., 208 S. First St. Free. (734) 996–8555.*

4 TUESDAY

Duplicate Bridge: Ann Arbor City Club. *Every Tues., Thurs., & Fri.* All invited to play ACBL-sanctioned duplicate bridge (Tues. & Fri.) and a 499er game (Thurs.) for players with no more than 499 ACBL master points. *1–4 p.m. (arrive by 12:45 p.m.), 1830 Washtenaw Ave. $9 per person. If you plan to come without a partner, email janeannarborcityclub@gmail.com.*

★**"An Afternoon with the Creature Conservancy": Ann Arbor District Library.** Creature Conservancy staff present various live animals TBA. Suitable for adults and kids age 5 & up. For the safety of the animals and attendees, this event has limited seating. *2–2:45 p.m. & 3:15–4 p.m., AADL Pittsfield. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**"Dog and Suds Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** *Every Tues.* Moderate-paced ride, 20 to 30 miles, along the less-traveled roads west and north of Chelsea. See aabts.org for weather cancelations or delays. *6 p.m. sharp, meet at Aberdeen Bike and Outdoors, 1101 Main, Chelsea. Start location occasionally changes. Free. (734) 662–0205.*

★**Touch Rugby: U-M Rugby Football Club.** *Every Tues. & Thurs.* All invited to play a low-contact version of rugby. Beginners welcome. *6–7:30 p.m., Riverside Park, 1000 Canal. Free. charles.pynch@gmail.com.*

★**"National Night Out": Pittsfield Township.** Giveaways, games, and fire trucks & police cars on display. Also, family-oriented info booths on crime & drug use prevention, cybersecurity, school safety tips, and other safety topics. *6–8 p.m., Montibeller Park, 4305 Ellsworth, Ypsi. Free. (734) 822–4959.*

★**"Let's Be Friends: Knitting, Crocheting, & Stitching": Ann Arbor District Library.** All invited to meet with others interested in fiber crafts. *6–7 p.m., AADL Traverwood. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**Tuesday Night Workouts: Ann Arbor Track Club.** *Every Tues.* Runners of all skill levels ages 14 & up invited to participate in short, intense interval workouts. Arrive at 6:20 p.m. to warm up. *6:30 p.m., Ferry Field, 1150 S. State. Visitors free; $30/year membership for regular participants. Preregistration required at aatrackclub.org/interval-workouts.*

★**"The 27th Grievance: Indigenous Nations and the Declaration of Independence": Ann Arbor District Library.** Native American historian Heather Bruegl discusses how Thomas Jefferson's use of the phrase "merciless Indian Savages" in the Declaration of Independence forever painted Indigenous people as the enemy of the country. *6:30–7:30 p.m., AADL Downtown, 4th fl. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

Tuesday English Country Dance: Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance. *Every Tues.* Historical and traditional English dancing to live music. All dances taught and prompted; no complicated steps, and no partner or experience needed. Bring clean, flat, nonslip shoes. First-timers asked to arrive at 6:45 p.m. *7–9:30 p.m., Concourse Hall, 4531 Concourse. Suggested donation $8–$12 (students, $4; kids age 13 & under with caregiver, free). (734) 665–7704, aactmad.org/english-country.*

★**Huron Valley Harmonizers Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society.** *Every Tues., except Aug. 18.* Singers of all ages and genders invited to join rehearsals of this award-winning a cappella chorus. *7–8:45 p.m., First Unitarian Universalist Church, 4001 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free to visitors; call ahead or check website (dues for those who join). (734) 796–7467, info@hvharmonizers.org, hvharmonizers.org.*

★**Women's A Cappella Chorus Rehearsal: Voices in Harmony.** *Every Tues.* Women singers invited to join a rehearsal of this local 40-member a cappella barbershop harmony chorus. *7–9:30 p.m., UAW Local 898, 8975 Textile, Ypsi. Free to visitors (dues for those who join). (734) 765–3611, info@voicesinharmonychorus.org, voicesinharmonychorus.org.*

★**"Alehouse Poets Open Reading": The Theater Shop.** All invited to read an original short poem or a favorite by another writer. Listeners welcome. Sign-up starts at 6:30 p.m. *7–8:30 p.m., Ypsi Alehouse, 124 Pearl, ste. 100, Ypsi. Free. facebook.com/thetheatershop.*

Drop-in Improv Games: Ypsi Improv. *Aug. 4, 8, 15, 22, & 29.* All age 16 & up invited to learn about and participate in improv games in a fun, relaxed, and judgment-free setting. No experience necessary. The Aug. 15 meeting is followed by an hour-long **skills session** discussing and practicing a specific improv skill. *7–9 p.m. (Tues.) & 2–4 p.m. (Sat.), Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron St., Ypsi. Tickets $8 (with skills session, $15) in advance via PayPal or Venmo linked from meetup.com/ypsi-improv or in cash at the door.*

★**"Trivia with Terry!": Argus Farm Stop.** *Aug. 4 & 18.* All invited to form teams to answer wacky trivia questions from this longtime Aut Bar trivia night emcee. *7–8:30 p.m., 1200 Packard. Free; food & drink for sale. (734) 997–5448.*

The Moth StorySlam: U-M Michigan Public. *Aug. 4 & 18.* Open mic storytelling competition sponsored by The Moth, the NYC-based nonprofit storytelling organization. Ten storytellers are selected at random from among those who sign up to tell a 3- to 5-minute story on the theme **"Schooled"** (Aug. 4) or **"Bossy"** (Aug. 18). Stories are judged by 3 people recruited from the audience. Winners compete in a semiannual GrandSlam. Seating limited; arrive early. *7:30–9 p.m. (doors open and sign-up begins at 6:30 p.m.), the Blind Pig, 208 S. First St. Tickets $15 general admission in advance only at themoth.org beginning 3 weeks before event. patricia@themoth.org.*

"Character Challenge": Hear.Say Brewing + Theater. Eight area stand-up comics present funny, bizarre characters in 90-second snippets, advancing tournament-style until a winner is decided. *8–9 p.m., 2350 W. Liberty. $15 in advance at heardotsay.com/events & $18 (if available) at the door. hello@heardotsay.com.*

5 WEDNESDAY

"Emma's Wedding(s)": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 3 p.m.

★**"Map Envelopes": Ann Arbor District Library.** Adults and kids age 8 & up invited to trace maps with templates, then fold and glue the edges to make ready-to-send postal envelopes. *3–4 p.m., AADL Traverwood. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**Ann Arbor Area Scrabble Club.** *Every Tues.* All invited to play the classic word game, using the 5th-edition Scrabble dictionary. Bring your own set, if you like. *3:30–8 p.m., Arbor Brewing Company Corner Brewery, 720 Norris, Ypsi. Free. meetup.com/ann-arbor-scrabble-meetup. burrbarr7@hotmail.com.*

★**"Parker Mill Tour": Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission.** *Aug. 5 & 18.* All invited to tour the historical cabin and learn about the Parker family's daily life in the 19th century. Activities for all ages. *4–7 p.m., Parker Mill County Park, 4650 Geddes. Free. tinyurl.com/wcparc-summer2026.*

★**"West Side Nite Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** *Every Wed.* Slow/moderate-paced ride, 10 to 30 miles, along the B2B Trail to Hudson Mills Metropark and/or Dexter-Huron Metropark with a possible visit to the Dexter Dairy Queen. This ride is a favorite with newcomers and casual riders. See aabts.org for weather cancelations or delays. *5 p.m. sharp, meet at Forest Lawn Cemetery parking lot, corner of Broad & Grand, Dexter. Free. (734) 426–5116.*

★**Board Game Night: Bløm Mead + Cider.** *Every Wed.* All invited to play popular board games. Use provided games or bring your own. *5–10 p.m., 100 S. Fourth Ave. Free, but purchase of food & drink encouraged. (734) 548–9729, drinkblom.com/events.*

★**Ypsi Fine Arts Club: Riverside Arts Center.** *Aug. 5 & 19.* All invited to this creative gathering where artists show 1 or 2 pieces of their work, some of which may be for sale. Participation not required. *5–6:30 p.m., 76 N. Huron St., Ypsi. Free. (734) 480–2787, riversidearts.org/events.*

★**Game Night: Sylvan Factory.** *Every Tues.* All invited to play one of a selection of board games, assemble a puzzle, paint miniatures, or try a tabletop role-playing game, all in a friendly, welcoming atmosphere. Also, at 6 p.m., **RPG One Shots,** introductory games of different tabletop role-playing games perfect for beginners, finished after one session (see website for this week's game, preregistration strongly encouraged at sylvanfactory.square.site). *5 p.m., 2459 W. Stadium. Free. (734) 929–5877, sylvanfactory.com.*

★**"The Side Questers": Schuler Books.** Local sci-fi & fantasy writer **J. J. Kochmanski** discusses

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his new novel, an unconventional hero's journey told through the perspective of a non-player character in an online fantasy role-playing game. Signing. *5:30 p.m., Westgate Shopping Center. Free; preregistration requested at schulerbooks.com/events-ann-arbor. (734) 662–0600.*

"Paddle the Huron River": Delhi Metropark. All age 18 & up invited to paddle the Huron by kayak to enjoy the scenery and discuss the wildlife with a park naturalist. Skip's Huron River Canoe Livery provides the gear. Park at the main parking lot at Delhi Metropark and take the walking path to Skip's to catch the shuttle to Dexter-Huron Metropark to paddle back to Delhi. Participants must be able to carry 20 lbs. and use both arms through a full range of motion. *6–8 p.m., 3902 E. Delhi. $30 per person. Preregistration required at huron-paddle-8-5-26 by 4 p.m., Aug. 4. (734) 426–8211.*

★**"A2 Crokinole Club": Lowertown Bar & Cafe.** *Every Wed.* All invited to play this century-old Canadian disc game played on a circular hardwood board. Players flick discs across concentric scoring rings. All skill levels welcome; boards provided. On the patio, weather permitting. *6–8 p.m., 1031 Broadway. Free. lowertowna2.com/events.*

"Community Table": The Washtenaw Food Hub. *Every Wed.* Food- and agriculture-related discussions and demos. *Aug. 5:* **"Botanical Bath Bombs."** $5. *Aug. 12:* **"Stitch & Sip."** Bring a textile project to work on. Free. *Aug. 19:* **"Sourdough Basics."** Free. *Aug. 26:* **"Brew'd: Apple & Pear Bug."** Make a wild-fermented brew starter, with samples & recipes. $7. *6–7 p.m., 4175 Whitmore Lake Rd. Cost varies. Preregistration required for all events at tinyurl.com/a2-foodhub. thewashtenawfoodhub.com.*

★**"Folk Song Jam Along": Ann Arbor District Library.** Lori Fithian and Jean Chorazyczewski lead this family-friendly sing-along of familiar folk and pop songs. Lyrics and chords projected. Musicians invited to bring their own acoustic instruments. *6–7:30 p.m., AADL Westgate. Free. folksongjamalong@gmail.com.*

★**"Quakers: Who Are We?": Ann Arbor Friends Meeting.** *Aug. 5 & 19.* A small group of local Quakers discusses their beliefs and answers questions about Quakerism, conscientious objection to war, and other topics. *7–8 p.m., Friends Meeting House, corner rm., 1420 Hill. Free. annarborfriends.org.*

Ann Arbor Bridge Club. *Every Wed., except Aug. 26.* All invited to play friendly, competitive ACBL-sanctioned duplicate bridge. Arrive 20 minutes early if coming without a partner. Call before coming to check that the game is being held. *7–10:30 p.m., Walden Hills clubhouse, 2114 Pauline (park in marked spaces in the lot on the north side of Pauline). $6 per person. (734) 945–6021.*

"Wednesday Night Swing": Swing Ann Arbor. *Every Wed.* Lindy Hop, East Coast swing, Charleston, and Balboa dancing to recorded music. No partner needed. Wear comfortable low-grip shoes. Preceded at 6:30 p.m. by a free beginner lesson. *7:30–9:30 p.m., Michigan League Vandenberg Rm. (Aug. 5 & 12), Michigan Union Anderson ABCD Rm. (Aug. 19), and outside location TBA at swingannarbor.com (Aug. 26). $5 (free for members and lesson attendees) at the door.*

★**Visitors Night: Ann Arbor Model Railroad Club.** The chance to see trains whizzing around on a big, elaborate layout, housed in a depot restored by the club. *7:30–10 p.m., Dexter Depot, 3487 Broad, Dexter. Free. info@aamrc.org.*

6 THURSDAY

★**"Outstanding Orthoptera": Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission.** WCPARC naturalist Elle Bogle leads an expedition to catch, examine, and learn about the insect order that includes crickets, grasshoppers, and katydids. *10 a.m.–noon, Northfield Woods Preserve, 150 E. Northfield Church Rd., Whitmore Lake. Free, but preregistration required (#841009) at washtenaw.org/registerparks. Space is limited. boglee@washtenaw.org.*

★**"Wildflowers in Michigan Gardens": Good Thyme Garden Club.** Talk by master gardener Cheryl English, who also shows off some of her garden pottery. *10 a.m., Arbor Hospice, 2366 Oak Valley Dr. Free. 1goodthyme@gmail.com.*

★**Sonic Lunch: Bank of Ann Arbor.** *Every Thurs., June 4–Aug. 27.* Musical entertainment by local, regional, and national performers. Today: **Michigander,** band led by Jason Singer, a Nashville-based Midland-born singer-songwriter & guitarist known for his soaring melodies and lush instrumentation. Opener: **Metal Bubble Trio,** deceptively named septet headed by Andrew Dost (formerly of Anathallo and Fun) performs bossa nova, doo-wop, and indie pop with a country rock tinge. *11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m., Liberty Plaza, E. Liberty at S. Division (if inclement weather, check website for new location). Free. soniclunch.com.*

★**"Inhabitants & Architects: The Homes of Indian Village": Ann Arbor District Library.** Michigan photographer and architectural historian Dale A. Carlson presents a slide-illustrated talk on the homes, architects, and residents of this Detroit neighborhood that was home to many of the city's wealthy automakers, industrialists, and financiers. *2–3:15 p.m., AADL Pittsfield. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**"Yarn-Wrapped Cardboard Letters": Ann Arbor District Library.** Adults and kids grade K & up invited to make a colorful decoration by wrapping different colors of yarn around a precut cardboard letter. *2–3 p.m., AADL Westgate. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

"Emma's Wedding(s)": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 3 & 7:30 p.m.

★**A2 Summer Streets Music Series: Main Street Area Association.** *Every Thurs.–Sun., June 4–Sept. 28.* Local musicians TBA perform at several locations along Main downtown. Rain cancels. *4 p.m. Thurs.–Sun., S. Main between E. Washington & W. William. For the complete lineup, go to mainstreetannarbor.org/a2-summer-streets. Free.*

★**Open Lab: Ann Arbor District Library.** *Aug. 6, 13, 19, & 27 (different times).* All invited to work on their own projects using the library's tools, including silhouette cutting machines, die cutters, embossers, and button makers (*Aug. 6*); 3D printers, laser engravers, and 3D pens (*Aug. 13*); sewing machines, silhouette vinyl cutters, and heat presses (*Aug. 19*); and soldering equipment and electronic components (*Aug. 27*). *5:30–7:30 p.m. (Aug. 6, 13, & 27) & 11 a.m.–1 p.m. (Aug. 19), AADL Downtown, Secret Lab. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**Depot Town Cruise Nights: Ypsilanti Auto Museum.** *Every Thurs.* Old car cruise, kids activities, and free ice cream. Artwork, crafts, and antiques for sale. *5:30–8:30 p.m., E. Cross between Rice & N. River St., Ypsi. Free. info@ypsiautoheritage.org.*

★**"Thursday Evening Dirt": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** *Every Thurs.* Moderate-paced ride, 25 to 35 miles, along the less-traveled unpaved roads around Chelsea. Bring a chair and a beverage or snack for a postride tailgate. See aabts.org for weather cancelations or delays. *6 p.m. sharp, meet at Aberdeen Bike and Outdoors, 1101 Main, Chelsea. Email mmotowski@hotmail.com for each week's route. Free. (313) 980–5277.*

★**Bad Decisions Track Club.** *Every Thurs.* Runners of all abilities invited to join this eclectic group of runners ranging from people training for their first 5K to ultramarathoners. Sessions are typically interval-based track workouts, followed by socializing at a nearby brewery. *6 p.m., Ferry Field, State at Hoover. May meet elsewhere if the weather is bad. Free. See walline.wixsite.com/bdtc to sign up for email updates on each week's workout.*

★**"Repairsday Thursday": All Hands Active.** *Every Thurs.* All invited to drop in with broken electronics, furniture, toys, or any other item they'd like to try to repair or repurpose with the help and guidance of AHA members.

Repairs not guaranteed. *6–8 p.m., basement of 255 E. Liberty, ste. 225. Free; donations welcome. info@allhandsactive.org, meetup.com/allhandsactive/events.*

★**"When Squirrels Fly" Book Launch.** Local writer D.E. Carr reads from and discusses her new cozy mystery novel, set in Ann Arbor. It's about a woman who drops everything to search for her missing aunt. In the process, she encounters attack drones, wormholes, quantum entanglement, and dream-based warnings from angry flying squirrels. *6–7:30 p.m., in the former Mark's Carts lot, 211 W. Washington. Free.*

★**Annual United Association of Plumbers & Pipefitters Block Party: Destination Ann Arbor.** Live music by the **Milwaukee Tool Shed Band,** a 14-piece jam band of Milwaukee Tools employees. Food available for sale from area restaurants, with dining tables in the street. *6–10 p.m., Main between Liberty & William. Free. ua@annarbor.org, annarbor.org/welcome-ua.*

★**"Lady Gaga Studies": Ann Arbor District Library.** Milwaukee-based historian Vince Tripi presents a detailed analysis of the music video for Lady Gaga's hit "Born This Way," exploring themes of identity, queerness, and literature. *6:30–7:30 p.m., AADL Downtown, 4th fl. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

"Lady Windermere's Fan": Loonlight Theatre. *Aug. 6–9.* Darla Hand directs local actors in an outdoor production of Oscar Wilde's sharp 1892 comedy about the very proper Lady Windermere, who comes to believe her husband is having an affair, leading to gossip, misunderstandings, and

theater review

A Fourth Attempt at Forever

Emma's Wedding(s) *at the Purple Rose*

Carey Crim has written some excellent plays. Unfortunately, *Emma's Wedding(s)* is not one of them.

In the play, a month into its world premiere at the Purple Rose Theatre Company, Emma is approaching her fourth attempt at forever while two close friends rail against the plan. Under the influence of psychedelics, the three women revisit Emma's first three weddings. Will Emma change her mind about this one?

Emma's already been through three divorces and isn't the worse for any of them. Another isn't likely to make a difference to her. What Crim really wants us to care about is Emma's friendships. Will they stay strong, or will time and distance weaken them? The theme gets spelled out before the play ends.

Broad strokes are fun in a comedy, but recycled sitcom jokes at the expense of foolish ex-husbands are just too easy, and jokes about farts and a supermarket checkout machine that announces a condom purchase are not funny enough.

At one of Emma's remembered bachelorette parties, a policeman responds to a noise complaint. Emma mistakes him for a male stripper and asks him to undress. The joke starts at the top and has nowhere to go—but it goes on. And on. Mistaken identity is a staple of comedy and farce and can be hilarious when it's fresh—but here it's overextended. And this isn't the only situation that's stale.

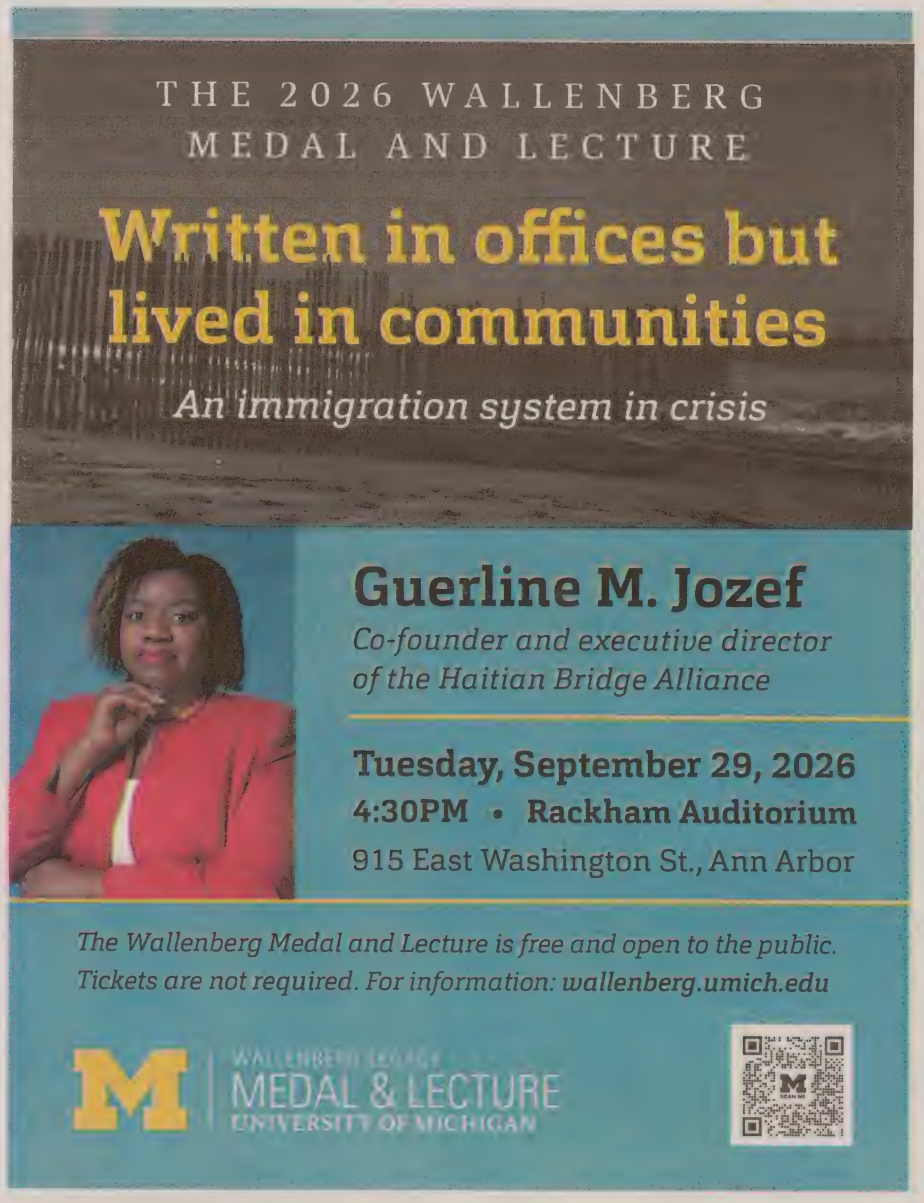
The play veers between comedy, farce, realism, and fable, and it ends with a twist that feels like a trick, an attempt to impose meaning where there hasn't been any. One character faces a genuine crisis and is written realistically, reminiscent of Crim's best work—she excels at drama. The other characters are cartoons, and director Kate Thomsen Savina hasn't managed to unify the different elements.

The design elements upstage the play. They are functional and attractive, supporting the play's themes. Wedding-gown white panels, separated at the top by bouquets, serve as doors and projection screens. Hot pink shirts define one character. The empty stage floor, dappled with lavender light, thrusts into the intimate space, leaving plenty of room for movement and props. Noele Stollmack's subtle lighting design is so good it deserves a better play.

—Davi Napoleon

SEAN CARTER

***Emma's Wedding(s)* runs at the Purple Rose Theatre Company through Aug. 30.**


THE 2026 WALLENBERG MEDAL AND LECTURE
Written in offices but lived in communities
An immigration system in crisis
Guerline M. Jozef
Co-founder and executive director of the Haitian Bridge Alliance
Tuesday, September 29, 2026
4:30PM • Rackham Auditorium
915 East Washington St., Ann Arbor
The Wallenberg Medal and Lecture is free and open to the public. Tickets are not required. For information: wallenberg.umich.edu
MEDAL & LECTURE
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

STEINER SCHOOL
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ROOTED IN CHILDHOOD. READY FOR THE WORLD.
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We help children develop perseverance, resilience, and strong social and emotional skills.
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EPA

EPA would like to hear from you!

Gelman Sciences, Inc. Superfund Site

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency invites residents of **Ann Arbor, Michigan**, to one-on-one conversations about the **Gelman Sciences Inc. Superfund site**. The next series will be held:

August 17 - 19, 2026
Scio Township Hall
827 N. Zeeb Road
Ann Arbor, Michigan

During the 30- to 60-minute sessions, EPA will ask questions to help:

- Understand how residents want to be informed and engaged about site progress.
- Identify information and resource gaps.
- Share resources with the community about EPA and the Superfund program.

The information gathered from residents will be used to create a "community involvement plan," which will help the agency throughout the Superfund cleanup process.

If you would like to schedule a time to talk with EPA, please contact EPA contractor **Caeli Cleary** at **312-201-7769** or **caeli.cleary@tetratech.com**.

You can also contact **Diane Russell** at **989-395-3493**, weekdays 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. or at **russell.diane@epa.gov**.

Visit **http://www.epa.gov/superfund/gelman** for more information on the site.

★ *Denotes a free event*

drama. The production features live musical accompaniment, and is set in an garden-party atmosphere against the backdrop of the historic Dixboro schoolhouse. *7 p.m. (Thurs.), 7:30 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.), & 3 p.m. (Sun.), Dixboro Village Green, 5221 Church Rd. Tickets $15 at loonlighttheatre.com & (if available) at the gate. loonlighttheatre@gmail.com.*

★**Live Trivia: Bløm Mead + Cider.** *Every Thurs.* Bløm staffers lead 2 rounds of trivia. Teams or single players welcome. Prizes. *7 & 8 p.m., 100 S. Fourth Ave. Free, but purchase of food & drink encouraged. (734) 548–9729, drinkblom.com/events.*

★**"The Murder at World's End": Booksweet Thursday Murder Mystery Book Club.** All invited to a discussion of Ross Montgomery's 2025 locked-room mystery set at a remote English manor house. *7–8 p.m., Booksweet, Courtyard Shops, 1729 Plymouth Rd. Free. Preregistration requested at shopbooksweet.com.*

★**"Salty Summer Sounds Live Music Series": Saline Main Street.** *Every Thurs., June 25–Aug. 29.* Downtown concerts by area bands. Kids activities. Outdoor seating and dining, as well as dancing. Tonight: **Ransom Jones,** a veteran local jazz-funk-rock quintet led by singer-guitarist Jim Dana. *7–9 p.m., W. Henry parking lot (across the street from Carrigan Cafe), Saline. Free. More information at salinemainstreet.org/events. (734) 717–7406.*

"The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee": Horizon Performing Arts. *Aug. 6–9.* Connor Thomas Rhoades directs local actors in William Finn and Rachel Sheinkin's Tony-winning 2004 one-act musical comedy about 6 anxiously overachieving adolescents competing in a spelling bee run by 3 adults who have barely managed to escape childhood themselves. *7 p.m. (Thurs.–Sat.) & 1 p.m. (Sat. & Sun.), Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre, 911 North University. $23 (students & seniors, $21) at horizonpa.yapsody.com & at the door.*

"Comedy Jamm": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *Every Thurs.* Performances by up to 12 aspiring and established area stand-up comics. *7:15 p.m. (doors at 6:30 p.m.), 212 S. Fourth Ave. $5 in advance at aacomedy.com & $6 at the door. (734) 996–9080.*

Thursday Night Improv: Hear.Say Brewing + Theater. *Aug. 6 & 13.* Two structured improv events, both followed by a pay-what-you-want **improv jam** with a series of games and long-form scenes. Spectators welcome. *Aug. 6:* **Draft Line.** Improv students are selected to perform a set with one of the house teams. *Aug. 13:* **Duoplicity.** Experienced improvisers are invited to be randomly paired up to perform a 6-minute scene. *7:30–8:30 p.m., 2350 W. Liberty. $7.50 in advance at heardotsay.com/events & (if available) at the door.*

★**"Golden Hour Nature Hike": Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission.** WCPARC naturalist Shawn Severance leads a meditative hike through the tranquil settings of West Lake Preserve as the sun sets. *7:30–8:30 p.m., West Lake Preserve, 21520 Waterloo, Chelsea. Free. severances@washtenaw.org, washtenaw.org/registerparks.*

7 FRIDAY

★**"Joe's Breakfast Club": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** *Every Fri.* Moderate-paced ride, 20 miles or more, to Dexter and beyond. Pack a lunch or stop in Dexter. See aabts.org for weather cancelations or delays. *9 a.m. sharp, meet at Delhi Metro Park parking lot (left of the tollbooth), E. Delhi off Huron River Dr. Free. a2dan@sbcglobal.net.*

★**"Olson Park Gravel Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** *Every Fri.* Slow/moderate-paced 18-mile gravel road ride with a rest stop at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church. See aabts.org for weather cancelations or delays. *9 a.m. sharp, meet at Olson Park, 1515 Dhu Varren. Free. (412) 302–9960.*

"US-12 Heritage Trail Sale": Saline Area Historical Society Fundraiser. *Aug. 7 & 8.* Yard sale that's part of a string of sales along the road between Detroit and New Buffalo. Rentschler Farm gift shop also open. *9 a.m.–5 p.m., Rentschler Farm Museum, 1265 E. Michigan Ave., Saline. Free admission. (734) 944–0442.*

★**Dexter Summer Festival: Dexter Area Chamber of Commerce.** *Aug. 7 & 8.* Formerly "Dexter Daze," these festivities in downtown Dexter include a parade, fireworks, food and craft vendors, kids activities, games, and music at three locations. Today's live music at the **Monument Park** gazebo includes a mix of rock and alt-country covers and originals by **Outbound Packard** (3–5 p.m.) and Detroit blues band **Randy Brock** (7–10 p.m.). Also throughout both days at Monument Park: cornhole (with a tournament), mini golf, a social tent, and a dunk tank. On a second stage on **Broad** at Grand, live music includes blues and rockabilly from the **Gravel Shakers** (1–3 p.m.) and honky tonk and country originals from the **Step Aside Band** (5–7 p.m.). The Broad location also features a kids bike decorating station, a jump around party, karate and drama demos, and other kids entertainment on both days. In **Mill Park** on both days, hands-on kid-friendly activities include bounce houses, balloon animals, and more. Today's festivities end with **fireworks** at dusk. *10 a.m.–8:30 p.m. (Fri.) & 10 a.m.–8 p.m. (Sat.), downtown Dexter. Free admission. dextersummerfestival.com.*

★**Ice Dance Exhibition: Ann Arbor Figure Skating Club.** Skaters of all ages show off their ice dancing routines. *2:15–4:05 p.m., Ann Arbor Ice Cube, 2121 Oak Valley Dr. at Scio Church Rd. Free admission. (734) 213–6768, aafsc@annarborfsc.org, annarborfsc.org.*

★**Saline Summerfest.** *Aug. 7 & 8.* This downtown festival features live music, a large arts & crafts show, a car show, kids activities, a 5K, outdoor movie screenings, and more over 2 days. Food trucks & a beer and wine tent. Donation of school supplies accepted. Today: a screening of the movie ***Zootopia 2*** (6:30 p.m.) at Henne Field, and 70s–90s rock and pop favorites by the Detroit quartet **Atomic Radio** (8 p.m.). Full schedule available at facebook.com/salinesummerfest. *5–11 p.m. (Fri.) & 9 a.m.–11 p.m. (Sat.), downtown Saline. Free admission. salinesummerfest@gmail.com.*

★**"Teen & Young Adult Outdoor Skills: Navigation": Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation.** Teens and young adults invited to learn how to navigate with a map and compass. Materials provided. Dress for the weather. Minors must be accompanied by an adult. Inclement weather cancels. *5–6:30 p.m., West Park. Free, preregistration required at tinyurl.com/a2parksrec or (734) 794–6250. eeelkins@a2gov.org.*

★**"Finding Gobi: The Inspirational, Heartwarming, & True Story of a Man and His Best Friend": Ann Arbor District Library.** Endurance athlete **Dion Leonard** discusses his new book about how he befriended a small stray dog during a 155-mile race across the Gobi Desert. Signing. *6–7:30 p.m., AADL Downtown, 4th fl. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

D&D Adventurers League: Sylvan Factory. *Every Fri.* All invited to play the current official campaign of the popular Dungeons & Dragons tabletop role-playing game, using 5th-edition rules. Kids under 13 must have adult accompaniment. *6–10 p.m., 2459 W. Stadium. $10. Space limited, preregistration strongly recommended. (734) 929–5877, sylvanfactory.com.*

"Euchre Change a Life!" *Aug. 7 & 21.* Five-game euchre tournament. Sign up with a partner, or get paired with one by the organizers. Prizes. Food and beverages available for purchase. Proceeds benefit Haitian children via Haitian Christian Outreach. *6:30–9 p.m., HOMES Campus, 112 Jackson Plz. $15 (HOMES members, $10). euchrechangealife@gmail.com, tinyurl.com/a2euchrechange.*

First Friday Shabbat: Jewish Cultural Society. All invited for a dinner from a local restaurant, preceded by a brief secular Shabbat

observance with songs, candle lighting, and challah & wine rituals. Kids welcome. *6:30–8 p.m., 2935 Birch Hollow. $10 (families, $25) for nonmembers; members, free. Preregistration required at jewishculturalsociety.org.*

★**John E. Lawrence Summer Jazz Concert Series.** *Every Fri., July 31–Aug. 28.* Formerly the Ypsilanti Frog Island Jazz Concert series, now in a larger venue at Ford Lake Park, with outdoor performances by national and area smooth jazz acts. Veteran local jazz guitarist Lawrence opens each night by playing a piece with the featured artist. Bring a lawn chair or blanket to sit on. Tonight: the acclaimed Philadelphia R&B jazz fusion group **Pieces of a Dream.** *7 p.m., Ford Lake Park, 9075 S. Huron River Dr., Ypsi. Free (parking, $10 per vehicle). (734) 635–5446, johnelaw@sbcglobal.net.*

"The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee": Horizon Performing Arts. See 6 Thursday. 7 p.m.

Mike O'Keefe: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *Aug. 7 & 8.* This quick-witted observational comic, a Detroit native, engages in "self-deprecating jackassery" on such topics as his Irish family, the dangers of living in Chicago, and wild business ideas. Opening act TBA. *7:15 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.) & 9:45 p.m. (Sat.), 212 S. Fourth Ave. $20 at aacomedy.com & (if available) at the door. (734) 996–9080.*

"Lady Windermere's Fan": Loonlight Theatre. See 6 Thursday. 7:30 p.m.

"Gutenberg! The Musical!": Penny Seats Theatre. *Aug. 7–22.* Emily Wilson-Tobin directs local actors in Anthony King and Scott Brown's 2-man musical about a pair of aspiring playwrights who perform all the parts in a run-through for potential backers of their new, hilariously ill-advised project—a big, splashy musical about printing press inventor Johannes Gutenberg. Adult themes. *8 p.m. (Thurs., Fri., & Sat.) & 2 p.m. (Sun.), Cahoots, 206 E. Huron St. Tickets $28 (seniors, $25 & students, $20) in advance at pennyseats.org & (if available) at the door.*

Friday Night Improv: Hear.Say Brewing + Theater. *Every Fri.* Performance by **11 Non-Blondes,** a house team of experienced improvisers. *8–9:30 p.m., 2350 W. Liberty. $15 in advance at heardotsay.com/events & $18 (if available) at the door.*

"Emma's Wedding(s)": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 8 p.m.

"Athena": Theatre Nova. See 1 Saturday. 8 p.m.

Riverside Swings: Riverside Arts Center. *Every Fri.* Swing dancing to recorded music. No partner or experience required. Wear comfortable low-grip/tread shoes. Preceded at 7 & 8 p.m. by hour-long lessons. Followed by a "late-night blues-&-fusion" dance. The 1st Friday of each month is free, and the 3rd Friday includes a Charleston lesson. *9–11 p.m., 76 N. Huron St., Ypsi. $5 (students, $4). riversidearts.org/riverside-swings.*

★**"Telescope Observing": U-M Detroit Observatory.** *Every Fri., except Aug. 14.* All invited to drop in to use the observatory's 1857 Fitz telescope and other modern instruments. Exhibits are also open regardless of viewing conditions. Last visitors admitted 30 minutes prior to closing. *9–11 p.m., 1398 E. Ann at Observatory. Free, no registration required. (734) 763–2230, detroitobservatory.umich.edu.*

"Turtle Cat Comedy": Hear.Say Brewing + Theater. Local and visiting stand-up comics TBA. Hosted by Finn St. John. *9:30–10:30 p.m., 2350 W. Liberty. $15 in advance at heardotsay.com/events & $18 (if available) at the door. hello@heardotsay.com.*

8 SATURDAY

★**Saline Summerfest.** See 7 Friday. Today: A **5K race** (8:30 a.m. at Saline City Hall; preregistration required at tinyurl.com/salinesf5k2026), a **car show** (9 a.m.–3:30 p.m.), a **beauty pageant** crowning (noon), a **teen hangout** event (7 p.m.), and **arts & crafts** booths. Live music includes country and classic rock covers by Detroit-area quartet **Motor City Moonshine** (4 & 6 p.m.), classic rock tribute band **Leave Those Kids Alone** (5 & 7 p.m.), and 70s & 80s classic rock band **50 Amp Fuse** (8 p.m.). 8:30 a.m.–11 p.m.

★**Scavenger Hunt Run/Walk: Fleet Feet.** Runners and walkers of all ages invited to follow a 3-mile route through downtown on a scavenger hunt. *9 a.m., 123 E. Liberty. Free, preregistration required at tinyurl.com/a2fleetscav. (734) 929–9022.*

Yoga at the Big House: Citizen Yoga. Citizen Yoga teachers lead an all-levels yoga session at the U-M stadium. Money raised goes to Garrett's Space and TRAILS to Wellness, 2 local nonprofits focused on youth mental health and suicide prevention. *9–11:30 a.m., Michigan Stadium, 1201 S. Main. $34 in advance only (usually sells out). tinyurl.com/bighouseyoga26.*

★**Dexter Summer Festival: Dexter Area Chamber of Commerce.** See 7 Friday. Today, the festivities begin with a **parade** (10 a.m.) down Main from Hudson, then left on Broad to Grand. Today's live music in **Monument Park** includes classic country, western swing, and boogie-woogie from the **Cadillac Cowboys** (3–5 p.m.), and a mix of Top 40 country and pop dance music from Detroit band **Still Rain** (7–10 p.m.). The **Broad** stage features folk-rock and roots Americana from the **Dave Boutette Trio** (1–3 p.m.) and Allman Brothers tribute band **Revival** (5–7 p.m.). The festival ends today with an outdoor screening of a family-friendly **movie** to be chosen by Dexter residents. 10 a.m.–8 p.m.

★**Farmers Market Performances: Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra.** *Aug. 8, 15, 26, & 29.* Chamber music performances by small groups of A2SO musicians. **Dexter Farmers' Market** *(Aug. 8, 10–11:30 a.m.),* 3233 Alpine, Dexter. **Ypsilanti Farmers Market** *(Aug. 15 & Aug. 29, 10–11:30 a.m.),* 16 S. Washington, Ypsi. **Saline Farmers Market** *(Aug. 15 & 29, 10–11:30 a.m.),* 104 S. Ann Arbor St. #4, Saline. **Ann Arbor Farmers Market** *(Aug. 26, 10–11:30 a.m.),* Farmers Market Pavilion, Kerrytown. *Various times and locations. Free. (734) 994–4801, a2so.org/farmers-markets.*

★**Group Sketch: Ann Arbor Urban Sketchers.** All invited to join this group of sketchers who meet to sketch and share what they've done. *11 a.m.–1 p.m., location TBA on facebook.com/groups/uskannarbor. Free. urbansketchersannarbor.com.*

★**"Art & Culture Cafe": Cluster Museum.** Artists with work in Cluster's current show, *Hands in Action* (see Galleries) discuss their work, flow, studio practices, and personal revelations that arise through making art. *11 a.m., 307 N. Main. Free. clustermuseum.org/events.*

★**U-M Kelsey Museum of Archaeology Saturday Sampler.** *Aug. 8, 15, & 22 (different times).* Docent-led tours exploring ancient Greek and Roman demi-gods in **"Centaurs and Sirens and Satyrs, Oh My!"** (Aug. 8), ancient female images in **"Women in the Kelsey"** (Aug. 15), **"Daily Life in Ancient Rome"** (Aug. 22, 11:15 a.m.), and **"All That Sparkles: Egyptian Jewelry"** (Aug. 22, 2 p.m.). *11:15 a.m.–noon (Aug. 8 & 22) & 2–3 p.m. (Aug. 15 & 22), 434 S. State. Free. (734) 764–9304.*

★**Letterpress Open Lab: Ann Arbor District Library.** *Aug. 8, 11, 18, & 29 (different times).* A chance for adults to learn the basics of printing with movable type. *Noon–2 p.m. (Aug. 8), 5–7 p.m. (Aug. 11 & 18), and 1–3 p.m. (Aug. 29), AADL Downtown, Secret Lab. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**Saturday Open House: U-M Detroit Observatory.** *Aug. 8 & 29 (different times).* All invited to drop in and tour the historic building, view exhibits, participate in astronomy-related activities, and use the observatory's telescopes (weather permitting). On Aug. 29, the observatory is open late to observe the night sky with the 1857 Fitz telescope. *Noon–5 p.m. (Aug. 8) & noon–11 p.m. (Aug. 29), 1398 E. Ann at Observatory. Free. (734) 763–2230, detroitobservatory.umich.edu.*

"Fun Fest 2026": Fundamental Sound Co.

HIGH HOLY DAYS
— 5787 —
Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Congregation

About AARC
Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Congregation embraces Judaism as an evolving tradition. Rooted in heritage and guided by creativity, inclusion, and justice, we build meaningful Jewish community for today and tomorrow. Together we celebrate learning, connection, and the many ways people create a vibrant Jewish life.

Rosh Hashanah
9/11
Erev Rosh Hashanah
7:30pm–9:00pm
9/12
Rosh Hashanah
9:30am–1:00pm Morning Service
10:30am–11:30am Family Service
4:00pm Tashlich @ Gallup Park, Geddes Entrance

Yom Kippur
9/20
Kol Nidre
6:30pm–9:30pm
9/21
Yom Kippur
10:00am–1:00pm Morning Service
10:30am–11:30am Family Service
1:45pm–4:45pm Workshops
5:00pm–6:30pm Yizkor
6:45pm–7:45pm N'eilah
Havdalah and Break Fast to follow

Scan here for more information
www.aarecon.org

One of our guiding principles is to be inclusive and welcoming. Therefore, our high holiday services are offered without tickets and free of charge. Please join us.

ANN ARBOR JAYCEES
90TH CELEBRATION
YOU'RE INVITED!
August 22, 2026

Join us for a day filled with family friendly activities, community engagement, and stories of past impact while we celebrate 90 years of community involvement.
German Park
Register:
https://www.a2jaycees.org/90thcelebration

★ *Denotes a free event*

Outdoor performances by local music acts. Featuring traditional New Orleans jazz by the Detroit-based **Gabriel Brass Band,** the popular jam-oriented pop-rock band **Pajamas,** the all-star local jazz-jam band **The Pherotones,** the progressive jazz band **Tikimen of Berlin,** classic rock 'n' roll and soul covers by the **Blaine Luis Band,** blues-rock & Americana by **James Bourland & the Staches,** and jazz-funk & electronica by **Sophiyah E & the Sol Tribe.** With solo acoustic performances by local folk-rock & Americana singer-songwriters **Adam Snyder, Skinned Knees, Maddy Ringo,** and **Carmel Liburdi.** Also, art and vintage clothing for sale, a bounce house, concessions, and more. Bring a lawn chair or blanket to sit on. *1–10:30 p.m., Frog Island Park, Ypsi. Tickets $20 in advance at fundamentalsoundco.com & at the gate.*

"The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee": Horizon Performing Arts. See 6 Thursday. 1 & 7 p.m.

★**"The Origins of the Law Quadrangle": U-M Detroit Observatory.** Student docents lead a walking tour through the law school campus, with discussion of its architecture and important moments in Michigan Law history. *1–2:30 p.m., meet at the corner of South University & State. Free, preregistration required at detroitobservatory.umich.edu. (734) 763–2230.*

"Emma's Wedding(s)": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"Athena": Theatre Nova. See 1 Saturday. 3 & 8 p.m.

U-M Women's Soccer vs. Loyola Chicago. Exhibition game. The U-M has regular season home games this month against **Xavier** (Aug. 22, 5 p.m.) and **Notre Dame** (Aug. 27, 7 p.m., $11–$13). *3 p.m., U-M Soccer Stadium, 2250 S. State. $9–$11 (groups of 10 or more, $3 per person; kids 5 & under, free). Exhibition games, free. (734) 764–0247, mgoblue.com.*

★**"No-Sew Felt Onigiri Plush": Ann Arbor District Library.** Adults and teens invited to make a rice ball–shaped plush toy. *5–6:30 p.m., AADL Westgate. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

"Twilight at the Farm": Domino's Petting Farm. *Aug. 8 & 22.* All invited—including artists & photographers—to experience the farm and its animals during the evening. Other attractions open; food for sale. *6–9:30 p.m., 3001 Earhart. $8 (seniors, $5.50; kids under 2, free). pettingfarm.com.*

Kozora Quartet: Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth Cafe 704. World fusion ensemble led by multi-instrumentalist Ken Kozora, a veteran local jazz luminary. With saxophonist/flutist Paul Vornhagen, drummer Enrique "Kito" Pardo, and Robert Spalding Newcomb on guitar, sitar, & synths. *7–9 p.m., 704 Airport Blvd., ste. 1. Sliding scale tickets $10–$20 at the door only. Livestream available ($10 in advance only at interfaithspirit.org/cafe-704-coffeehouse). (734) 657–5384, cafe704@gmail.com.*

Flamy Grant: Zion Lutheran Church. Concert by this Asheville, NC–based folk singer–guitarist and drag queen whose debut album, *Bible Belt Baby,* reached #1 on the iTunes Christian music charts in 2023. Her songs blend country, gospel, and roots music with powerhouse vocals and stage banter that ranges from flamboyant to heartfelt. *7 p.m., 1501 W. Liberty. $10 in advance at zlc-aa.org/news & (if available) at the door using a card only. (517) 474–1045, valeriellehmann@gmail.com.*

Mike O'Keefe: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 7 Friday. 7:15 & 9:45 p.m.

"Lady Windermere's Fan": Loonlight Theatre. See 6 Thursday. 7:30 p.m.

"Gutenberg! The Musical!": Penny Seats Theatre. See 7 Friday. 8 p.m.

★**University Lowbrow Astronomers.** A chance to join local astronomy buffs for a look at the sky through instruments, including the observatory's 24-inch McMath classical Cassegrain telescope. Participants are welcome to bring their own telescopes. Visitors must turn off all electronic equipment (car radios, transmitters, phones, etc.) at the observatory entrance. Canceled if the sky is overcast or the weather is inclement. If in doubt, call after 4 p.m. on the day of the event. Rain date Aug. 15. *8:30–11:55 p.m. or as long as the sky remains clear, Peach Mountain Observatory, North Territorial (about 1¼ miles west of Hudson Mills Metropark), Dexter. Free. (734) 975–3248.*

9 SUNDAY

Ypsi Flea Market. Show and sale of vintage items ranging from the early 1930s to the 90s, featuring clothing, jewelry, furniture, records, and more. Concessions. *10 a.m.–4 p.m., Ypsilanti Freighthouse, 100 Market, Ypsi. Free admission & parking. ypsifleaswap@gmail.com, facebook.com/ypsifleaswap.*

Contact Improv. All invited to try this interactive, free-form dance style that involves a rolling point of contact between two or more people through which dancers give and share weight. No partner required; beginners welcome. Preceded at 10:30 a.m. by a lesson. *11:30 a.m.–1 p.m., Gretchen's House, 2340 Oak Valley Dr. $15 ($25 includes lesson). Preregistration required at tinyurl.com/a2-contact-imp-su2026. caragraninger@gmail.com.*

★**16th Annual Ton-Up Motorcycle & Music Festival: Café Racer.** Display of motorcycles, mopeds, and scooters, with awards in a variety of different categories at 5:30 p.m. Live music at times TBA by local bands, including local high-octane neo-rockabilly quartet the **Atomic BombCatz,** retro roots rock 'n' roll from the **Palatinos,** greasy garage rock 'n' roll by **Las Drogas,** and biker boogie riffs by **Electric Huldra.** Emceed by WCBN FM DJ **Del Villarreal.** With vendors, food concessions, & raffles. Anyone under 21 must be accompanied by an adult. *Noon–7 p.m., Arbor Brewing Company Corner Brewery, 720 Norris, Ypsi. $10 for bike show entries (at the gate only); free admission. tinyurl.com/ypsi-ton-up-2026.*

★**Arts & Crafts Supply Swap: Ann Arbor District Library.** A chance to pick up gently used art supplies the library has collected. Donations accepted before Aug. 2 at all AADL branches. *Noon–2 p.m., AADL Downtown, lower level program rm. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**Shape Note Singing: Ann Arbor Sacred Harp.** All invited to join an afternoon of shape note, or sacred harp, singing, an early American form of communal hymn singing. Songbooks available, but singers are encouraged to bring their own. *1–4 p.m., the Ark, 316 S. Main. Free. (734) 478–3394, (734) 995–2519, cawolfe@umich.edu.*

"The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee": Horizon Performing Arts. See 6 Thursday. 1 p.m.

★**Sunday Drop-in Tour: U-M Kelsey Museum of Archaeology.** *Aug. 9, 23, & 30.* Docent-led tours exploring **"Highlights of the Kelsey"** (Aug. 9 & 30) and **"Favorite Objects and Surprising Stories"** (Aug. 23). *2–3 p.m., 434 S. State. Free. (734) 764–9304.*

"Gutenberg! The Musical!": Penny Seats Theatre. See 7 Friday. 2 p.m.

"Emma's Wedding(s)": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 2 p.m.

"Athena": Theatre Nova. See 1 Saturday. 2 p.m.

"Lady Windermere's Fan": Loonlight Theatre. See 6 Thursday. 3 p.m.

★**"Ypsi Photo Walk": Dzanc House.** Photographers of all skill levels with any kind of camera invited to walk together around Ypsi and take pictures. *3–4 p.m., 402 S. Huron St., Ypsi. Free. dzanchouse.org/all-events.*

★**"Drag Bingo": Ann Arbor District Library.** All invited to play a fun-filled round of bingo hosted by local drag queen Jadein Black. Prizes. *3–4 p.m., AADL Downtown, 4th fl. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**"Underwater Landscape in a Jar": Ann Arbor District Library.** Adults & teens invited to hot glue animal figurines, fake plants, sea shells, and other tiny objects to create an underwater scene in a glass jar. *3–4:30 p.m., AADL Downtown, Secret Lab. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

"Tales from the Cryptid: An Improvised Urban Legend": Hear.Say Brewing + Theater. *Aug. 9 & 16.* A fully unscripted one-act theatrical show about the appearance of a new cryptid that shakes up a small town. *6–7 p.m., 2350 W. Liberty. $15 in advance at heardotsay.com/events & $18 (if available) at the door.*

10 MONDAY

★**"Introductory Woodcarving: Alligators Two Ways": Ann Arbor District Library.** *Aug. 10 & 20 (different times).* Adults & teens invited to learn woodcarving basics, then carve 2 small alligators to take home. *1–3 p.m. (Aug. 10) & 5:30–7:30 p.m. (Aug. 20), AADL Downtown, Secret Lab. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**"Summer Game Mixer": Ann Arbor District Library.** Drop-in crafts for kids, along with activities for AADL Summer Game players. *5:30–7 p.m., AADL Downtown, Secret Lab. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**"All About Romance": Ann Arbor District Library Emerging Writers Workshop.** Area writers Elle Wright, Catherine Stein, Darci St. John, and Jordan Bloom discuss writing authentic relationships, avoiding common pitfalls, and finding a unique voice in the world of romance. Moderated by young adult novelist Bethany Neal. Also, Neal and local writer and editor Alex Kourvo host a write-in session at 6:30 p.m. on Aug. 12, and an open house for writers to connect with one another and/or work on their projects at 6:30 p.m. on Aug. 24. *6:30–7:45 p.m., AADL Westgate. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**Scandinavian Music Jam.** *Aug. 10 & 24.* Bruce Sagan leads an acoustic jam session devoted to traditional music from Sweden and Norway. All instruments welcome, no experience necessary. *7:30–9:30 p.m., location TBA; email bsagan@msu.edu. Free.*

★**Opera by the Glass: Comic Opera Guild.** Local singers perform arias and art songs by Mozart, Verdi, Puccini, Gilbert & Sullivan, and others. *7:30 p.m. (seating begins at 6 p.m.), 734 Brewing Company, 15 E. Cross,*

galleries

LOS AZULES OIL PAINTING BY JASMIN ISKANDAR DE CARO

Abrir or "to open," an exhibit of surreal and abstract paintings by Jasmin Iskandar de Caro, opens on the 3rd floor Downtown AADL July 28.

The African American Cultural and Historical Museum, 3261 Lohr. ***Black in Bicentennial*** *(Aug.–TBA).* Photos, prints, and artifacts from 200 years of Black life, leadership, and legacy in Washtenaw County. *Sat. & Sun. noon–4 p.m. (734) 761–1717, aachm.org.*

Ann Arbor Art Center, 115 W. Liberty. *Spotlight Gallery:* ***Catching Fireflies: What We Held Onto*** (Aug. 7–Sept. 2). In this collaborative exhibit, sisters **Gyona** and **DaJaniere Rice** explore home as an archive of memory, care, and creativity through multimedia works. Reception: Aug. 7, 6–8 p.m. *Main Gallery:* ***How We Hold*** (June 12–Aug. 26). Detroit artist **Quinn Faylor** explores relationships between bodies, objects, and environments through paintings, prints, sculpture, and immersive installations. *Mon.–Fri. 10 a.m.–7 p.m., Sat. & Sun. noon–6 p.m. (734) 994–8004, annarborartcenter.org.*

Ann Arbor City Club, 1830 Washtenaw Ave. ***Susan Jacob*** (Aug. 3–TBA). Mixed-media collage and watercolor works by this local artist. Reception: Aug. 6, 4–6 p.m. *Mon.–Fri. 9 a.m.–5 p.m. (734) 662–3279.*

Ann Arbor District Library Downtown, 343 S. Fifth Ave. *3rd fl.:* ***Abrir*** (July 28–Sept. 11). Explorations by abstract oil painter **Jasmin Iskandar de Caro** of how two-dimensional fields can act as portals for contemplation and wonder. *Lower level display cases:* ***An Origami World*** (July 30–Sept. 10). Nature scenes using only uncut paper by master origami artist **Jason Schneider.** *Daily, 10 a.m.–8 p.m. (734) 327–4555.*

Chris Nordin Studios Gallery, 117 E. Ann. ***Chris Nordin & Rita Malone*** (Aug. 14–Sept. 27). Fine art glass sculpture by Nordin and abstract paintings by Malone. Reception: Aug. 14, 5–8 p.m. *Thurs. & Fri. noon–4 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.–4 p.m. (734) 834–2952, chris@chrisnordinstudios.com, chrisnordinstudios.com.*

Creal Microgallery, 1215 Creal Cres., front yard. ***Life's Little Pleasures*** (Aug.–Sept.). Grand Rapids acrylic painter **Lain Leo** uses locally sourced wood, bright colors, and natural themes to highlight the small things in life that bring them joy. *Daily, sunrise–11 p.m. levickas@hotmail.com.*

Dzanc House, 402 S. Huron St., Ypsi. ***Dreams of a Redbone*** (Aug. 7–28). Stained glass hangings and windows by Ypsilanti artist **Iman Hathaway.** Receptions: Aug. 7 & 28, 6–9 p.m. *Check dzanchouse.org/gallery for gallery hours.*

Gallery 55+, U-M Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. ***Mary Murphy & Sophie Grille*** (July 31–Oct. 29). Work in watercolor by Murphy and abstract acrylics by Grille. Reception: Aug. 9, 3–4:30 p.m. *Mon.–Fri. 9 a.m.–5 p.m. (734) 998–9353, michmed.org/tswp.*

Gallery 100, 100 Silver Maples, Chelsea. ***Whispers in the Field*** (July 10–Aug. 27). Atmospheric landscape paintings in oil by Michigan artist **Avé Madiol Veneklasen.** *Mon.–Fri. 10 a.m.–5 p.m., Sat. & Sun. 10 a.m.–3 p.m. gallery100atsm@gmail.com, silvermaples.org/gallery100.*

Gutman Gallery, 118 N. Fourth Ave. ***Emerge*** (Aug. 7–Sept. 12). This group show of 14 emerging artists, participants in the Guild of Artists and Artisans Emerging Artists program, includes works in a variety of media. Reception: Aug. 7, 5–8 p.m. *Wed.–Sat. 11 a.m.–5 p.m. (734) 662–3382, theguild.org/gutman_gallery.*

U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. ***Come Away With Me*** (July 25–Sept. 13). Landscape paintings of vast spaces focused on the interplay of light and color, simplicity and complexity, by local painter **Kelley Kozloff.** *Tues. & Thurs.–Sun. 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m., Wed. 10 a.m.–8 p.m. (734) 647–7600, mbgna.umich.edu.*

Ypsi. Free; donations accepted. Buy your own food & drink. Reservations required at bit.ly/operaontapreservations or email sabrina@operaontap.com. (734) 678–2782.

11 TUESDAY

★**Collage Making: Ann Arbor District Library.** A chance for adults and kids age 5 & up to make collages out of old magazines. *2–4 p.m., AADL Pittsfield. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

U-M Men's Soccer vs. Cleveland State. Exhibition match. The U-M has another exhibition match this month against **Saginaw Valley** (Aug. 14, 4 p.m.) and regular home season games against **Loyola Marymount** (Aug. 20, 6 p.m.), **Niagara** (Aug. 27, 4 p.m.), and **Southern Illinois–Edwardsville** (Aug. 30, 2 p.m.). *4 p.m., U-M Soccer Stadium, 2250 S. State. $6 & $8 (groups of 10 or more, $3 each; kids 5 & under, free). (734) 764–0247, mgoblue.com.*

★**"Indicators of Healthy Streams": Stewardship Network Stewards' Circle.** All invited to take a walk along Mill Creek and discuss how the stream and river health has evolved after a dam was removed more than 15 years ago. *6–7 p.m., Mill Creek Park parking lot, 3000 Broad, Dexter. Free. huronarbor@stewardshipnetwork.org, stewardshipnetwork.org/huron-arbor-cluster.*

★**"Single Box Management": Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers.** Talk by Mike Sautter, a veteran beekeeper who manages over 100 colonies and specializes in hive inspections and troubleshooting. Preceded at 6:30 p.m. by a beginners' Q&A session. *7–9 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Also available online at home. Free; metered parking. a2b2club.org.*

★**Shape Note Singing: Ypsi Shape Note Group.** *Aug. 11 & 25.* All invited to join an evening of this early American form of hymn singing that uses musical notation with distinct shapes to make learning easier. Songbooks available, but singers encouraged to bring their own. No experience required. *7–9 p.m., Riverside Arts Center, Off Center Bldg., 76 N. Huron St., Ypsi. Free. (734) 480–2787, riversidearts.org/shape-note-singing-ypsilanti.*

12 WEDNESDAY

★**"Food Safety": Ann Arbor Farmers Market Cooking Demonstration.** Market vendors demonstrate how to prepare various foods safely. With recipes and samples. *11 a.m.–noon, Farmers Market Pavilion, Kerrytown. Free. a2gov.org/market.*

"Emma's Wedding(s)": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 3 p.m.

★**Board Game Night: Argus Farm Stop.** *Aug. 12 & 26.* All invited to participate in a relaxed evening of board games. If you want, bring a game to share. *4–7 p.m., 1200 Packard. Free; food & drink for sale. (734) 997–5448, argusfarmstop.com.*

★**"Summer Bird Pastels": Ann Arbor District Library.** Adults & teens invited to use vibrantly colored powdered pastel pigments to make portraits of the waterfowl that visit the pond outside the AADL Pittsfield branch. *5–7 p.m., AADL Pittsfield. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**Walking Tour of Suburban Farmland/Wildland Native Refugia: Wild Ones.** Tour of 4.5 acres of historic farmland that was purchased 3 years ago and has since been worked toward a more diverse ecology using various approaches. *6:30–8 p.m.,* 1093 W. Delhi. Parking along Delhi. *Free. a2wildones@gmail.com, annarbor.wildones.org/events.*

★**"An Evening of Poetry with Scott Beal and Jennifer Sperry Steinorth": Schuler Books.** (*See Ann Arborite: Scott Beal, pg. TK.*) These two local poets read from and discuss their new collections. Beal's ***Stegosaurus Moon*** explores heartbreak, divorce, parenthood, and the discovery of new, often unexpected, ways forward. Steinorth's ***Boys Behind Glass*** is a cheeky look at contemporary masculinity through the lens of matchmaking, pop culture, and female gaze. Signing. *6:30 p.m., Westgate Shopping Center. Free; preregistration requested at schulerbooks.com/events-ann-arbor. (734) 662–0600.*

Bluegrass Jam Circle: Ann Arbor Senior Center. *Aug. 12 & 26.* All musicians invited to bring acoustic instruments to play bluegrass-style music. Vocalists welcome. Inclement weather cancels. Please call by 3 p.m. on the day of the jam with any questions. *7–9 p.m. (doors open at 6:30 p.m.), 1320 Baldwin. $5. (734) 794–6250, a2blugrass.com.*

★**"Grammar Night": The Ark/Michigan Public.** Linguist Anne Curzan, dean of the U-M College of Literature, Science & the Arts, is joined by Rebecca Hector, her cohost for the weekly Michigan Public segment *That's What They Say,* to discuss English grammar & usage, new slang, and language peeves. *7 p.m., the Ark, 316 S. Main. Free; preregistration required at michiganpublic.org/events. (734) 761–1451.*

★**"Night Hike": Scio Township Parks Department.** All invited on this naturalist-guided night hike to spot and identify nocturnal animals, from owls and flying squirrels to weasels and invertebrates. Age 16 & under must have adult accompaniment. Dress for the weather. Bring flashlights and mosquito nets, if you have them. *9–10 p.m., West Scio Preserve, 317 Dino. Free, preregistration required (space limited) at bit.ly/4aqGUxe. programs@sciotownshipmi.gov.*

13 THURSDAY

★**Sonic Lunch: Bank of Ann Arbor.** See 6 Thursday. Today: **Racing Mount Pleasant,** chamber folk-rock septet whose instrumentation includes violin and horns, formed in 2019 as Kingfisher by U-M students. Their style has been compared to Bon Iver, Lord Huron, and Black Country. Opener: **Lost Mary,** Hillsdale-based songwriting duo of Luke Martin and David Johnson III, performs indie-folk and Americana originals with contemplative lyrics and acoustic instrumentation. 11:30 a.m.

"Emma's Wedding(s)": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 3 & 7:30 p.m.

★**"Singing for Comfort": Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth.** All invited to join a sing-along of soothing songs that are easy to learn. No experience necessary. *7–8:30 p.m., 704 Airport Blvd., ste. 1. Free. (734) 327–0270.*

★**"Salty Summer Sounds Live Music Series": Saline Main Street.** See 6 Thursday. Tonight: **Atomic BombCatz,** a local high-octane neo-rockabilly quartet. 7–9 p.m.

★**"Nerd Nite": Ann Arbor District Library.** Adults age 21 & up invited to this popular monthly event featuring three speakers TBA (at annarbor.nerdnite.com) who give fun yet informative 20-minute talks about things that interest them, anything from how a trumpet works to a dissection of romance novel tropes. *7–9 p.m., Live, 102 S. First St. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

"Comedy Jamm": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 6 Thursday. 7:15 p.m.

"Southern Rapture": PTD Productions. *Aug. 13–16 & 19–22.* Karrie Waarala directs local actors in Cleveland playwright Eric Coble's 2009 dark satire exploring art, commerce, and censorship. The plot, based on a 1996 staging of Tony Kushner's *Angels in America* in Charlotte, North Carolina, follows a theater company in a major Southern city as it puts on a controversial play featuring foul language, homosexual themes, and 7 minutes of full frontal male nudity. Leading up to the premiere, the city's mayor brings legal action, locals threaten to burn the theater down, and the terrified actors exchange cans of pepper spray as opening night gifts. "The broad laugh-out-loud humor narrows slowly toward a poignant ending, making a fantasy into a reality," writes one *Charlotte Observer* reviewer. *7:30 p.m. (Thurs.–Sat.) & 2 p.m. (Sun. & Wed.), Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron St., Ypsi. Tickets $20 (students & seniors, $15) in advance at ptdproductions.com & at the door. (734) 483–7345.*

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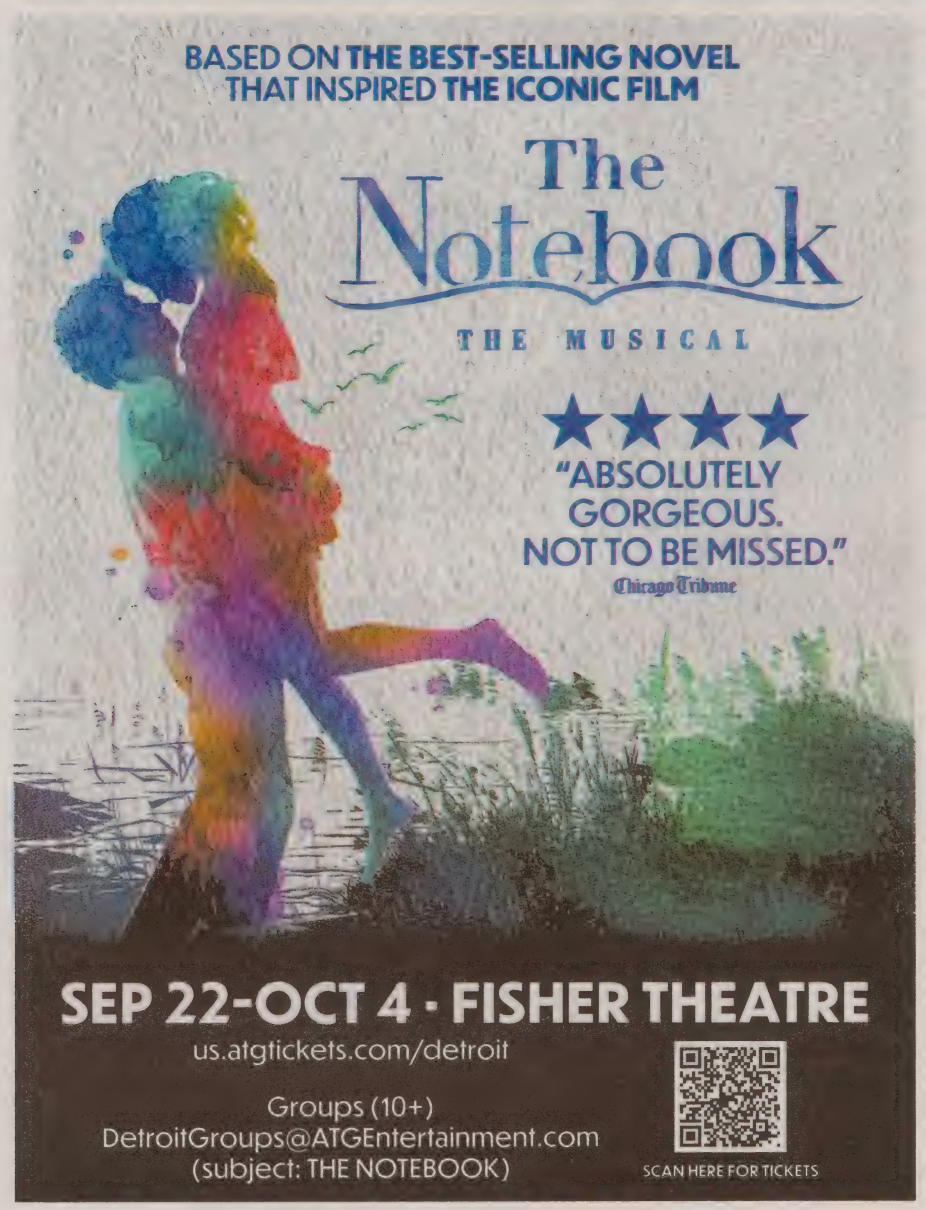

★ *Denotes a free event*

Michigan Playwrights Festival: Theatre Nova. Aug. 13–16. Readings of new full-length plays by Michigan playwrights followed by audience talkback sessions. Tonight: Ann E. Eskridge's ***The Sanctuary,*** in which a young boy grieving his father's death befriends an eccentric neighbor who has built a sanctuary from discarded objects. *8 p.m. (Thurs.–Sat.) & 2 p.m. (Sun.), 410 W. Huron St. Tickets $10 (festival pass, $30) in advance at theatrenova.org & (if available) at the door. (734) 635–8450.*

"Gutenberg! The Musical!": Penny Seats Theatre. See 7 Friday. 8 p.m.

"Pop-Up Comedy": Don't Tell Comedy Show. Both the lineup of stand-up comics and the location are not revealed until the day of the show. Age 21+. Drinks for sale. Doors open 30 minutes before showtime. *8 p.m., Lowertown outdoor location. Tickets $30 in advance only at donttellcomedy.com/cities/ann-arbor.*

14 FRIDAY

★ **"Annual Paint Dexter Plein Air Festival."** *Aug. 14 & 15.* A 2-day exhibit and sale of works by local and visiting artists who have been painting outdoors throughout Dexter since Aug. 10. Also, art workshops for kids and adults (see paintdexter.com). Today's special events: **"Quick Draw Competition"** (9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.) among participating artists, an **art sale** (2–9 p.m.), a meet-the-artists **beer & wine reception** (2 p.m.), and an **awards ceremony** (5 p.m.). Also, live music by the **Dexter Dulcimers** (2 p.m.) and the **Depot Town Big Band** (7–9 p.m.). *9:30 a.m.–9 p.m. (Fri.) & 10 a.m.–7 p.m. (Sat.), Monument Park, Dexter. Free admission. (734) 580–2229, paintdexter@gmail.com, paintdexter.com.*

★ **"Midday Morsel Drop-in Tour": U-M Kelsey Museum of Archaeology.** Thirty-minute docent-led tour of ancient Mediterranean artifacts in the museum collection. *12:30 p.m., 434 S. State (meet at the Maynard entrance). Free. (734) 764–9304.*

★ **"Pioneer Day at Sharon Mills": Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission.** A chance to learn what life was like for early settlers of Sharon Hollow in the 1830s. Activities for all ages. *4–7 p.m., Sharon Mills Preserve, 5701 Sharon Hollow, Manchester. Free. tinyurl.com/wcparc-summer2026.*

★ **Gel Plate Printing: Ann Arbor District Library.** Adults and teens invited to use AADL paints, textures, and patterns to create one-of-a-kind monoprints. *5–7 p.m., AADL Downtown, Secret Lab. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★ **"Friday Night Geology Hike: Blueberries & Beavers": Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission.** WCPARC naturalist Shawn Severance leads a hike to explore the summer forest and the abundance of life that emerges at the complex edge of water and sand created by the meltwaters of the glaciers thousands of years ago. *6–8 p.m., West Lake Nature Preserve, 21520 Waterloo, Chelsea. Free. Preregistration required (#841009) at washtenaw.org/registerparks. severances@washtenaw.org.*

★ **Pride at the Y Dinner Dance: Ann Arbor YMCA.** All invited to celebrate LGBTQ+ pride with dancing to music spun by a DJ and a buffet dinner. With drag performances, family-friendly arts and crafts, drag bingo, a makeover station, and more. Please, no stiletto heels; the floor is delicate. YMCA membership not required. *6–9 p.m., YMCA gymnasium, 400 W. Washington. Free, but preregistration recommended by Aug. 7 (seating limited) at annarborymca.org/pride2026.*

★ **"Bone of My Bone": Booksweet Bookshop Ann Arborville Horror Book Club.** All invited to join a discussion of Johanna van Veen's 2026 medieval folk-horror novel. *7–8 p.m., Booksweet, Courtyard Shops, 1729 Plymouth Rd. Free. Preregistration requested at shopbooksweet.com.*

★ **Music in the Park: Dexter Area Chamber of Commerce.** *Every Fri., Aug. 14–28.* Entertainment in downtown Dexter. Food trucks, dancing. Bring lawn chairs or a blanket and relax on the grass. Tonight: **Depot Town Big Band** plays big band swing. Note the start time is 30 minutes later tonight than other concerts in the series. *7–9 p.m., Monument Park gazebo, downtown Dexter. Free. (734) 325–4030, tinyurl.com/dexter-music2026.*

★ **John E. Lawrence Summer Jazz Concert Series.** See 7 Friday. Tonight: a funk-inflected smooth jazz ensemble led by veteran saxophonist **Kirk Whalum.** 7 p.m.

Zach Peterson: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *Aug. 14 & 15.* Rising Omaha-based observational comic with a nerdy, off-kilter style delivers his thoughts on everything from vampires to being an uncle to the dangers of $35 hotel rooms. Opening act TBA. *7:15 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.) & 9:45 p.m. (Sat.), 212 S. Fourth Ave. $20 at aacomedy.com & (if available) at the door. (734) 996–9080.*

"New Moon Hike": Leslie Science & Nature Center. LSNC staff lead a family-friendly hike through Black Pond Woods to enjoy the nighttime darkness and do some science experiments on the trail. Followed by moon-themed stories & poems around a campfire. *7:30 p.m., 1831 Traver. $5 (under age 2, free). Preregistration required at lesliesnc.org or (734) 997–1553.*

"Southern Rapture": PTD Productions. See 13 Thursday. 7:30 p.m.

"Gutenberg! The Musical!": Penny Seats Theatre. See 7 Friday. 8 p.m.

"Emma's Wedding(s)": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 8 p.m.

Michigan Playwrights Festival: Theatre Nova. See 13 Thursday. Tonight: ***Cakewalk,*** Kenndall Wallace's drama about a crisis in a 1930s vaudeville family caused by the son, an aspiring writer, making plans to leave for another kind of life. 8 p.m.

★ **"Femme Feedback" Comedy Night: Bløm Mead + Cider.** A variety of women and trans comics try out new material with a veteran comic presiding to offer feedback. *8–10 p.m., 100 S. Fourth Ave. Free, but purchase of food and drink encouraged. (734) 548–9729, drinkblom.com/events.*

Henry Cho: Live Nation. This veteran comic from Knoxville (TN) has performed in many movies and TV shows, and at the Grand Ole Opry over 100 times. Known as a "clean" storytelling comedian, Cho has often used his childhood experiences as an Asian American in the South in his comedy. This show, part of his *Empty Nest Tour,* focuses on his life as an older parent and married man. *8 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets $53–$80 in advance at ticketmaster.com & (if available) at the door. (734) 662–0600.*

"Disc Golf Glow Night": Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission. All invited to play disc golf with illuminated course baskets. Bring your own glow discs. *9 p.m.–midnight, Independence Lake County Park, 3200 Jennings, Whitmore Lake. $5 walk-up or preregistration (#IL451100) at washtenaw.org/registerparks, plus $6 (nonresidents, $10) vehicle entry fee. (734) 484–9676.*

★ **"Perseid Meteor Shower Viewing": Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission.** WCPARC Naturalist Kelsey Dehring points out "shooting stars" from the annual Perseid Meteor Shower and the constellations in the summer sky. Bring blankets. May be canceled due to weather (registrants notified). *9 p.m.–1 a.m., meet at Independence Lake County Park Beach Center Pavilion, 3200 Jennings, Whitmore Lake. Free, but $6 vehicle entry fee (non-county residents, $10). Preregistration required (#841005-A) at washtenaw.org/registerparks. Space is limited. dehringk@washtenaw.org.*

"I Ain't No Joke": Hear.Say Brewing + Theater. A blend of stand-up comedy and improv sets by local comics and improvisers, hosted by Jacob Russell. *9:30–10:30 p.m., 2350 W. Liberty. $15 in advance at heardotsay.com/events & $18 (if available) at the door.*

15 SATURDAY

★**"Annual Paint Dexter Plein Air Festival."** See 14 Friday. Today's events include an **art sale** (9 a.m.–8 p.m.), a children's art activity (11 a.m.), and a **beer & wine reception** (noon). Also, live music in the Gallery Tent by the **Ducenota String Ensemble** (noon), the **Ann Arbor Clarinet Trio** (1:15 p.m.), the **G-Fours String Quartet** (2:30 p.m.), the **Depot Town Jazz Ensemble** (3:45 p.m.), and, at the Monument Park gazebo, the **Dexter Community Choir** (6 p.m.). 9 a.m.–8 p.m.

★**"Morning Music @9:29": Northside Community Church.** Local cellist Thor Sigurdson hosts other string, wind, and keyboard instrumentalists for a performance of classical music TBA. Coffee & refreshments. *9:29 a.m., 929 Barton. Free, donations or breakfast goodies welcome. kgoodson@umich.edu.*

★**"BIPOC Walk at Rolling Hills": Washtenaw Bird & Nature Alliance.** Club member Victor Chen leads a walk for people from BIPOC communities and their allies to look for birds. Binoculars provided if needed. *9:30–11 a.m., meet at the Wiard's Orchards parking lot, 5565 Merritt. Free. washtenawbna.org.*

Annual Arts & Crafts Fair: Salem Area Historical Society. Show and sale of works by local artists and crafters. Also, self-guided **tours** of the one-room schoolhouse, **barn murals** on display, concessions, raffles, and **live music** TBA. *10 a.m.–4 p.m., Jarvis Stone School, 7991 North Territorial at Curtis, Salem Twp. Free admission. sahs.countryfair@gmail.com.*

★**"South Side Stroll": Dzanc House.** Art and music festival in the alley and backyards of Ypsilanti's historic South Side neighborhood. Live music TBA. Food vendors. Art on display and for sale. Rain date: Aug. 16. *11 a.m.–6 p.m., Catherine St. alley from Hamilton to Huron St., Ypsi. Free. More information at dzanchouse.org/all-events.*

★**"Anime Arbor": Ann Arbor District Library.** A day of talks, costume contests, and other activities celebrating all things anime and manga, the Japanese animated film and comic book arts, respectively. With an **artists alley** featuring a variety of artists and vendors selling anime and manga-related goods, all-ages **anime-themed crafts,** a featured talk by voice actor **Kayli Mills** (noon, 4th fl. program rm.), along with talks by cosplay experts Akakioga, AlpacaAsh, Jazzthebat, and Halcybella. For a complete schedule see aadl.org/animearbor. *11 a.m.–5 p.m., AADL Downtown. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

Ypsilanti Food Festival: Washtenaw County. Community gathering with family-friendly yard games and activities and music spun by DJ Roy. Also, a demo from the Ypsilanti Fire Department, food trucks, and artisan vendors. *Noon–7 p.m., University Bank Commerce Center, 301 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsi. Free. bit.ly/4eKFIpz.*

★**U-M Field Hockey vs. Northwestern.** Exhibition match. The U-M also has a home exhibition match this month against **MSU** (Aug. 19, 6 p.m.). *Noon, Ocker Field, 1202 S. State. Free. (734) 764–0247, mgoblue.com.*

U-M Volleyball vs. Pittsburgh. Exhibition match. The U-M also has regular season home matches this month against **Long Island University** (Aug. 28, 6 p.m.) **& Miami** (Aug. 29, 2 p.m.). *1 p.m., Crisler Center. $8 & $10 (groups of 10 or more, $3 each). (734) 764–0247, mgoblue.com.*

★**Jewel Heart Happy Hikers: Jewel Heart Buddhist Center.** All welcome to join a hike through the Arb. *1:30–2:30 p.m., meet at the Peony Garden entrance to the Arb at 1610 Washington Hgts. Free programs@jewelheart.org, jewelheart.org/chapters/ann-arbor.*

"Emma's Wedding(s)": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 3 & 8 p.m.

★**Paul Keller Jazz Quartet: Jazz Vespers.** Veteran local bassist Keller leads his ensemble in jazz performances on the church lawn, interspersed with spiritual readings. Moves to the sanctuary if it rains. *5 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw Ave. Free. fpca2.org.*

★**"Drummunity!"** Local drum teacher Lori Fithian leads a drum circle. Instruments provided, or bring your own. Kids welcome. *7 p.m., Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth, 704 Airport Blvd., ste. 1. Free, but donations welcome. (734) 426–7818.*

Zach Peterson: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 14 Friday. 7:15 & 9:45 p.m.

Mozart's "Requiem": Beyond Choir Summer Sings. All singers welcome to join EMU choral director Brandon Johnson and members of this local professional vocal ensemble in a performance of Mozart's final masterpiece, unfinished when he died in 1791. Mozart's widow Constanze was responsible for a number of stories about the work's composition, including one that Mozart came to believe that he was writing the Requiem for his own funeral. Tonight, participants rigorously rehearse the piece and then perform it in its entirety to an audience. No audition required; singer registration $5. Music provided (or bring your own Süssmayr edition, if you have it, digital score available on the website). Business casual attire suggested for singers. Spectators welcome. Check-in begins at 3 p.m., with rehearsal starting promptly at 3:30. *7:30–8:20 p.m., EMU Pease Auditorium, 494 College Pl., Ypsi. Tickets pay-what-you-can at beyondchoir.org & at the door. (734) 203–0753, info@beyondchoir.org.*

3rd Saturday Contra Dance & Barbeque Potluck: Pittsfield Union Grange. Rick Szumski calls to live music. Bring clean shoes for dancing. Beginners' intro at 7 p.m. Preceded by a potluck/barbeque at 5:30 p.m. Burgers, brats, and veggie burgers supplied; bring a side dish or dessert to share. *7:30–10:30 p.m., 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. $10–$15 suggested donation (pay what you can). (734) 274–0773.*

"Southern Rapture": PTD Productions. See 13 Thursday. 7:30 p.m.

Fustercluck & Friends: Hear.Say Brewing + Theater. Performance by an ensemble of 4 Detroit-area improvisers with over a century of combined experience. *7:30–8:30 p.m., 2350 W. Liberty. $10 in advance at heardotsay.com/events & $12 (if available) at the door.*

"Gutenberg! The Musical!": Penny Seats Theatre. See 7 Friday. 8 p.m.

Michigan Playwrights Festival: Theatre Nova. See 13 Thursday. Tonight: Krystle Dellihue's ***ASHE,*** about the pivotal moment when Arthur Ashe's HIV diagnosis is on the verge of being exposed by the press. 8 p.m.

"Comedy on Tap": Lowertown Bar & Cafe. Sets by area stand-up comics. *8 p.m., 1031 Broadway. $13 at the door. instagram.com/lowertowna2.*

"Blush Drag Show": Bløm Mead + Cider. Drag show hosted by Blonski and Portia Lynn, with performers TBA. Age 18 & up. Doors open at 8:30 p.m. *9–10:30 p.m., 100 S. Fourth Ave. $25 in advance at drinkblom.com/events & (if available) at the door. (734) 548–9729.*

16 SUNDAY

"Swim to the Moon": Epic Races. 5K, 10K, 1.2-mile, and half-mile open water races. Awards, medals for finishers, T-shirts, & more. Proceeds benefit North Star Reach, a camp for kids with life-threatening medical conditions. *Races begin from 6:30 a.m.–9:30 a.m. (registration opens at 5:45 a.m.) Halfmoon Lake beach, 8725 Hankerd, Gregory. $180–$225 in advance at swimtothemoon.net; prices increase on race weekend. Michigan Recreation Passport (daily, $12 at the gate) required for each vehicle. (734) 585–7101.*

Charity Soccer Match: Elliott Deedler ECMO Scholar Fund. All invited to cheer on Pioneer High students as they play a friendly exhibition match to benefit patients at U-M's pediatric critical care program. ECMO (Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation) is an advanced life-support machine that saved now 15-year-old Pioneer High soccer player Deedler's life. *Noon, Pioneer High School*

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★**Stage Combat Demonstration: Ann Arbor District Library.** Members of the Michigan stage combat troupe Theatrica Gladiatoria demonstrate choreographed sword fighting, martial arts, and other stunts. *Noon–1 p.m., AADL Downtown. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**"The Iron Crafter": Ann Arbor District Library.** All-ages team-based crafting competition. Each team will have one hour to design and build a craft project using common tools and secret craft supplies that are revealed at the time of the event. Prizes for top finishers. *Noon–3 p.m., AADL Downtown, lower level program rm. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**Sundays at Cobblestone: Cobblestone Farm Museum.** All invited to tour the house and farm, as well as to join docents and board members in inventorying & cataloging items and cleaning the museum. *1–3 p.m., 2718 Packard. Free. cobblestonefarm.org.*

★**"Hand-Sewing Marathon: Adorable Felt Ice Cream Cones": Ann Arbor District Library.** Craft activity for adults & teens. Involves the use of sharp needles. *1–4:30 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**"Midsummer Greenway Delight Nature Walk": Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy.** All invited to join a naturalist to celebrate SMLC's 28th anniversary by taking a 1.5-mile walk through LeFurge Nature Preserve's 325 acres of diverse terrain, including rolling hills, wetlands, meadow, and woods. Dress for the weather. No pets. Refreshments and socializing start at 1:15 p.m. *2–3:45 p.m., park and meet at Conservancy Farm, 8383 Vreeland, Superior Twp. Free, donations welcome. (734) 482–5957, bakerpartin@aol.com.*

★**Farmstead Tours: Pittsfield Township Historical Society.** Guided tours of the historic 1832 Sutherland-Wilson farmstead. Also, in the house, *The Needles Art: A Historic Journey Through Samplers and Stitches,* an exhibit mounted by the local chapter of the Embroidery Guild of America. *2–5 p.m., Sutherland-Wilson Farm, 797 W. Textile. Free. info@pittsfieldhistory.org, pittsfieldhistory.org.*

films

★**8-Ball Movie Night.** 8ballmovienight.weebly.com. All age 21 & older are invited to watch 2 films each night, with trivia about each at intermission. Prizes. Free snacks. 8 Ball Saloon (201 S. First St.). 7 p.m.–midnight, preshow starts at 6:30 p.m.

Aug. 9:* "You Know, for Kids."** Two movies about twisted toy companies: ***Toys (Barry Levinson, 1992), surreal comedy starring Robin Williams about a hi-tech toy factory that falls into the hands of an army general; and ***The Hudsucker Proxy*** (Joel & Ethan Coen, 1994), about a naive but ambitious business school graduate (Tim Robbins) who is installed as president of a manufacturing company as part of a stock scam.

Fathom Entertainment. (734) 973–8424 (Cinemark), (734) 316–5500 (Emagine). Tickets $12.50 (except as noted) in advance at fathomentertainment.com/events & at the door. Cinemark (4100 Carpenter, Ypsi) & Emagine (1335 E. Michigan Ave., Saline).

***Aug. 2 & 5:* "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory"** (Mel Stuart, 1971). Delightfully unsettling musical fantasy about a little boy who visits a magical candy factory run by the thrilling, dangerous Willy Wonka, played by Gene Wilder. Sun.: 4 p.m. (Cinemark) & 1 p.m. (Emagine). Wed.: 6:30 p.m. (Cinemark) & 7 p.m. (Emagine).

***Aug. 5:* "Aida."** Rebroadcast of the Metropolitan Opera's 2025 production of Verdi's celebrated opera, a drama set in ancient Egypt about an enslaved Ethiopian princess caught in a love triangle with a heroic young Egyptian warrior desired by the pharaoh's daughter. Acclaimed soprano Angel Blue, in her long-awaited Met debut, sings the title role. Italian, English subtitles. 1 & 6:15 p.m. Cinemark only.

***Aug. 6:* "Big, Loud & Live 2026."** Live broadcast of the Drum Corps International world championship preliminaries in Indianapolis. 6:30 p.m. $20.

***Aug. 8 & 10:* "Tales from Earthsea"** (Gorō Miyazaki, 2006). Dubbed (Sat.) & subtitled (Mon.) screenings of this Japanese anime fantasy based on the Ursula K. Le Guin book series. 4 p.m. (Sat.) & 6:45 p.m. (Mon.).

***Aug. 9 & 11:* "Only Yesterday"** (Isao Takahata, 1991). Dubbed (Tues.) & subtitled (Thurs.) screenings of this Japanese anime drama about an unmarried workaholic office worker who reminisces about her Tokyo childhood on a trip to the countryside. Tues. 4 & 6:45 p.m. (Cinemark) and 4 & 7 p.m. (Emagine). Thurs. 6:45 p.m. (Cinemark) & 7 p.m. (Emagine).

***Aug. 22–26:* "Castle in the Sky"** (Hayao Miyazaki, 1986). Dubbed (Sat., Sun., & Wed.) and subtitled (Mon. & Tues.) screenings of this classic Studio Ghibli anime film about 2 children racing to find a flying castle. 4 p.m. (Sat. & Sun.) and 7 p.m. (Mon.–Wed.).

★**Jewel Heart Buddhist Center.** 1129 Oak Valley Dr. Concessions. Free. (734) 994–3387, jewelheart.org.

***Aug. 14:* "White Bird"** (Marc Forster, 2024). When a boy is struggling to fit in at his new prep school, he is visited by his grandmother and is changed by her story of her attempts to escape Nazi-occupied France during World War II. Helen Mirren, Gillian Anderson. Discussion follows. 7 p.m.

Michigan Theater. Film screenings every day. Tickets $11.75 unless otherwise noted (children under 12, students, seniors age 65 & older, and U.S. veterans, $9.75; Marquee Arts members, $8) in advance online (recommended) & at the door. For updated schedule, see marquee-arts.org/calendar.

***Aug. 1:* "F*ckToys"** (Annapurna Sriram, 2025). In this wild, unfiltered, surreal film, a part-time sex worker and full-time chaos magnet goes on a wild quest for $1,000 and a sacrificial lamb to lift a curse. The 2026 Cinetopia Audience Award Winner. 8 p.m.

***Aug. 2:* "Network"** (Sidney Lumet, 1976). This pitch-black comedy written by Paddy Chayefsky depicts a fictional television network struggling with poor ratings when the erratic behavior of its news anchor makes his program a surprise hit. Peter Finch, Faye Dunaway. 1:30 p.m.

***Aug. 4:* "American Movie"** (Chris Smith, 1999). Cult film documenting the making of *Coven,* an independent short horror film. The production suffered from poor financing, the director's alcoholism, and the ineptitude of the ragtag production team. 7 p.m.

***Aug. 5 & 8:* "Ponyo"** (Hayao Miyazaki, 2009). Studio Ghibli anime fantasy centered on the friendship between a 5-year-old boy and a magical goldfish who yearns to become human. Japanese, subtitles, 7 p.m. (Wed.) & dubbed, 11 a.m. (Sat.).

***Aug. 6:* "Spaceballs"** (Mel Brooks, 1987). Beloved, eminently quotable *Star Wars* parody featuring characters such as Dark Helmet, Pizza the Hut, and Princess Vespa. Mel Brooks, Rick Moranis, John Candy, Daphne Zuniga. 7 p.m.

***Aug. 7–9:* "CatVideoFest"** (various directors, 2026). Compilation of funny and cute online cat videos. A portion of proceeds goes to the Humane Society of Huron Valley. 6:30 p.m. (Fri.), 2 p.m. (Sat.), & 4 p.m. (Sat. & Sun.).

***Aug. 7:* "Piranha"** (Joe Dante, 1978). Cult horror film with a screenplay by John Sayles about a river infested by lethal, genetically altered piranhas. 9:30 p.m.

***Aug. 8:* "1969: Killers, Freaks, and Radicals"** (Andrew Templeton, 2024). Documentary that examines the crimes of serial killer John Norman Collins in Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti in the late 1960s within the context of the social and political events of the times. 7 p.m.

***Aug. 9:* "Steamboat Bill, Jr."** (Charles Reisner & Buster Keaton, 1928). Silent comedy in which an awkward young man played by Keaton woos a rich young woman against the wishes of both their fathers. It includes one of Keaton's most famous stunts: the facade of a house falls around him while he stands in the precise location of an open window. With live accompaniment from Michigan Theater organist Stephen Warner. Suggested donation $5 with preregistration at marquee-arts.org/calendar. 1:30 p.m.

***Aug. 11:* "The Player"** (Robert Altman, 1992). Satire about a Hollywood studio executive who murders an aspiring screenwriter he believed was sending him death threats. Tim Robbins, Greta Scacchi, Vincent D'Onofrio. 7 p.m.

***Aug. 12:* "The Boy and the Heron"** (Hayao Miyazaki, 2023). Japanese anime, set in 1943, in which a young boy mourning the loss of his mother is pestered by a gray heron, who leads him to a mysterious world where the dead and the living meet. Japanese, subtitles. 7 p.m.

***Aug. 13:* "Robin Hood: Men in Tights"** (Mel Brooks, 1993). Parody of the legend of Sherwood Forest. Cary Elwes, Richard Lewis, Dave Chappelle, Amy Yasbeck. 7 p.m.

***Aug. 15:* "A Chinese Ghost Story"** (Ching Siu-tung, 1987). Cult Hong Kong xianxia (supernatural fantasy) martial arts horror film about a man who falls in love with a ghost. Leslie Cheung, Joey Wong, Wu Ma. Cantonese, subtitles. 1:30 p.m.

★***Aug. 16:* "The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie"** (Stephen Hillenburg, 2004). Animated undersea adventure based on the popular Nickelodeon cartoon, about a happy-go-lucky oddball sponge who lives in a pineapple under the sea. FREE with preregistration at marquee-arts.org/calendar. 11 a.m.

***Aug. 16:* "Woodstock"** (Michael Wadleigh, 1970). Documentary about the legendary 1969 music festival. 1:30 p.m.

***Aug. 18:* "Sullivan's Travels"** (Preston Sturges, 1941). Masterful comedy-drama, a satire of the film industry, about a Hollywood director who longs to make a socially relevant drama and sets out to live as a tramp to gain life experience. Joel McCrea, Veronica Lake. 7 p.m.

***Aug. 19 & 22:* "My Neighbor Totoro"** (Hayao Miyazaki, 1988). Acclaimed Japanese anime tale about two girls who move to the countryside and befriend strange and delightful nature spirits. Japanese, subtitles, 7 p.m. (Wed.) & dubbed, 11 a.m. (Sat.).

***Aug. 20:* "Silent Movie"** (Mel Brooks, 1976). Satirical silent comedy about early 20th-century Hollywood slapstick comedies and the film industry. It uses intertitles and a soundtrack of orchestral music and sound effects. 7 p.m.

***Aug. 21:* "The Fast and the Furious"** (Rob Cohen, 2001). 25th anniversary screening of the first installment of the action media franchise revolving around street racing, heists, and spies. Time TBA.

***Aug. 21:* "The Big Cheese"** (Sara Joe Wolansky, 2025). Documentary about an underdog team of U.S. cheesemongers preparing to compete at the French Mondial du Fromage, the "Olympics of Cheese." Followed by a wine and cheese reception in the lobby with Zingerman's Deli. 6:30 p.m.

***Aug. 21:* "I Know What You Did Last Summer"** (Jim Gillespie, 1997). Slasher film about 4 teenage friends stalked by a hook-wielding killer one year after covering up a car accident in which they think they killed a man. 9:30 p.m.

***Aug. 22:* NT Live: "Les Liaisons Dangereuses."** Broadcast of a taped National Theatre (London) production of Christopher Hampton's adaptation of the 18th-century Pierre Choderlos de Laclos novel. It's an exposé of the decadent and manipulative world of French aristocracy, centering on the machinations of two amoral ex-lovers, played by Lesley Manville and Aidan Turner. 7 p.m.

***Aug. 23:* "The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly"** (Sergio Leone, 1966). Iconic spaghetti western about a search for missing gold. Clint Eastwood, Eli Wallach, Lee Van Cleef. 1:30 p.m.

***Aug. 26:* "Howl's Moving Castle"** (Hayao Miyazaki, 2004). Oscar-nominated Japanese anime love story about an 18-year-old girl, cursed into an old woman's body, and a wizard who can see through the curse. Japanese, subtitles. 7 p.m.

***Aug. 27:* "Summer of Soul"** (Ahmir "Questlove" Thompson, 2021). Footage from the 1969 Harlem Cultural Festival, featuring performances by Stevie Wonder, Nina Simone, Sly and the Family Stone, the Staple Singers, and more. 2 p.m.

***Aug. 27:* "Young Frankenstein"** (Mel Brooks, 1974). Hilarious parody of old Frankenstein movies with standout performances by Gene Wilder, Teri Garr, Peter Boyle, Cloris Leachman. 7 p.m.

***Aug. 28:* "2026 Sundance Film Festival Short Film Tour."** Six notable shorts from this year's festival. 7 p.m.

***Aug. 28:* "Cabin in the Woods"** (Drew Goddard, 2011). Science fiction comedy horror film about 5 college friends who arrive at a remote forest cabin for a vacation. One by one, they fall victim to backwoods zombies, but there is another factor at play. 9:30 p.m.

***Aug. 30:* "Lawrence of Arabia"** (David Lean, 1962). Influential and sweeping epic based on the life of British adventurer T. E. Lawrence. The film won 7 Oscars, including best picture. Peter O'Toole, Alec Guinness, Anthony Quinn, Omar Sharif. 1:30 p.m.

State Theatre. Film screenings every Wed.–Sun. Tickets $11.75 unless otherwise noted (children under 12, students, seniors age 65 & older, and U.S. veterans, $9.75; Marquee Arts members, $8) in advance online (recommended) & at the door. (734) 668–8397. For updated schedule, see marquee-arts.org/calendar.

***Opens July 30:* "Spider-Man: Brand New Day"** (Destin Daniel Cretton, 2026). Marvel superhero film, the fourth installment in the MCU *Spider-Man* series. Tom Holland, Zendaya, Sadie Sink.

***Opens Aug. 21:* "Teenage Sex and Death at Camp Miasma"** (Jane Schoenbrun, 2026). Slasher film about a queer filmmaker hired to direct a new installment of a long-running slasher franchise who becomes fixated on trying to cast the reclusive actress who played the final girl in the original movie. Hannah Einbinder, Gillian Anderson. 7 p.m.

★**Michigame Design Lab Game Playtesting: Bløm Mead + Cider.** All invited to try out new board and card games from local designers and provide feedback. *2–6 p.m., 100 S. Fourth Ave. Free, but purchase of food & drink encouraged. (734) 548–9729, drinkblom.com/events.*

"Gutenberg! The Musical!": Penny Seats Theatre. See 7 Friday. 2 p.m.

"Emma's Wedding(s)": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 2 p.m.

"Southern Rapture": PTD Productions. See 13 Thursday. 2 p.m.

Michigan Playwrights Festival: Theatre Nova. See 13 Thursday. Today: Joël Henning Doty's ***Dispersion,*** about a woman in a coma who hears her children's true feelings about family secrets, communicates with her dead husband, and gets lessons from a funny, wise nurse, or, maybe, an angel? 2 p.m.

17 MONDAY

★**"Adult Art & Nature: Sun Prints": Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation.** Adults invited to learn the technique of cyanotype printing by gathering local plants and using other found objects to make unique works of art with guidance from local artist Cheryl Boc-Chidester. No experience necessary; all materials provided. *5–7 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free, preregistration required at tinyurl.com/a2parksrec or (734) 794–6250. epotter@a2gov.org.*

★**"Beginner Needle Felting: Cat Roll": Ann Arbor District Library.** Adults and teens invited to learn needle felting basics, then make a burrito-cat, cat-roll, or tater-tot-shaped feline to take home. Involves the use of sharp needles. This craft will take the entire time to complete. *6–7:30 p.m., AADL Downtown, 4th fl. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

"Teen Privacy vs. Parental Rights in Health Care": Braver Angels of Washtenaw County. All invited to a guided discussion hosted by this local nonpartisan group focused on bridging political divides. *6–8 p.m., Aubree's Pizzeria & Grill, 2122 Whittaker, Ypsi. Free. washtenaw.braverangels.org.*

★**"How to Store Your Stamps": Ann Arbor Stamp Club.** Talk about albums, stockbooks, mylar, and more by former club exhibit chairperson Karl Edelmann. Also, a mini-auction of U.S. and foreign stamps. Visitors welcome. *7:30 p.m., Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1500 Scio Church Rd. Free. (734) 761–5859, arbor@provide.net, annarborstampclub.org.*

18 TUESDAY

81st Manchester Community Fair. *Aug. 18–22.* Midway rides (Wed.–Sat.), carnival games, concessions, livestock shows, live music, beer tent, and more. Special events include an **opening parade** (Aug. 18, 6:30 p.m.), classic & antique **tractor pulls** (Aug. 19, noon & 4 p.m.), pro wrestling by **Insane Wrestling Revolution** (Aug. 19, 7 p.m.), a **Bump and Run Demolition Derby** (Aug. 20, 7:30 p.m.), a **cornhole competition** (Aug. 21, 6 p.m.), and **bull riding & rodeo** (Aug. 22, 7 p.m.). For complete schedule, see manchesterfair.org. *5–10 p.m. (Tues.), 10 a.m.–10 p.m. (Wed., Thurs., & Sat.), & 3–10 p.m. (Fri.), Alumni Memorial Field, Vernon & Wolverine, Manchester. Admission: Tues., $5; Wed., Thurs., & Sat., $10 (Sat. before noon, $5); Fri., free. Kids age 5 & under, free. (734) 260–1019, manchesterfair@yahoo.com.*

★**Polka Jam Session: American Legion Hall.** All accordion players and other musicians invited to play polkas and waltzes and other ethnic and old-time music. *7–9 p.m., 44 Wabash (south off Main), Milan. Free.*

★**French Canadian Music Session: Ann Arbor Community for Traditional Music and Dance.** All musicians invited to bring acoustic instruments to trade tunes and play the dance music of French Canada: jigs, reels, waltzes, and so-called "crooked" tunes from Québec, Acadia, and the Métis traditions. Knowledge of French not required. *7–9 p.m., Pittsfield Twp. bldg., Morris Hall, 6201 W. Michigan Ave. Free. frenchcanadianmusic@aactmad.org, aactmad.org/french-canadian-session.*

19 WEDNESDAY

"Southern Rapture": PTD Productions. See 13 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"Emma's Wedding(s)": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 3 p.m. Sold out.

Food Truck Rally: Ann Arbor Farmers Market. Fourteen food vendors with live music performed by **Bob Hoot,** the veteran alt-country and rock singer-songwriter, and community group tabling. *5–8 p.m. Free admission. a2gov.org/market.*

★**"Handmade Felt Food: Apples": Ann Arbor District Library.** Craft activity for adults & teens. *6–7:30 p.m., AADL Traverwood. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**"Summer Stress": Ann Arbor Bonsai Society Monthly Meeting.** Wyrdwood Bonsai (Lexington, KY) owner David Cutchin discusses how heat affects bonsai. *6:30–9 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, rm. 125, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free; metered parking. aabonsaisociety@gmail.com, annarborbonsaisociety.org/events.*

★**"Craft & Chat": Pittsfield Union Grange.** All invited to work on their knitting, crocheting, and other craft projects together. *7–9 p.m., 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd., use back door. Free. (734) 274–0773.*

20 THURSDAY

★**Sonic Lunch: Bank of Ann Arbor.** See 6 Thursday. Today: **Ax and the Hatchetmen,** playful, energetic Chicago-based alternative rock sextet fronted by singer-guitarist Axel Ellis. Their debut album, *So Much to Tell You,* was released late last year. Opener: **Ohly,** indie folk project headed by Detroit-based singer-songwriter Christian Ohly, performs dreamy originals rooted in his personal experiences of Midwest nostalgia, heartbreak, and growth. 11:30 a.m.

★**Summer Game Food & Drink Tasting: Ann Arbor District Library.** Tasting of food and nonalcoholic beverages provided by Zingerman's Deli. Also, activities for AADL Summer Game players. *1–2 p.m., AADL Westgate courtyard. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

"Emma's Wedding(s)": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 3 & 7:30 p.m.

★**"A2Zero Sashiko Skills & Clothing Swap": City of Ann Arbor Office of Sustainability and Innovations.** All invited to learn how to repair clothing using beautiful visible mending with traditional Japanese sashiko stitching. Also, bring in up to five washed and in-good-condition clothing items and accessories and find new-to-you treasures to take home. You can take clothing without bringing anything, or bring clothing without taking anything. *4–7 p.m., Larcom City Hall, 301 E. Huron St. luma.com/a2zeroclothingswaps.*

★**"Patio Playlist with P.O.R.K.": Zingerman's Delicatessen.** Outdoor performance by **Phil Ogilvie's Rhythm Kings,** a local 10-piece big band led by tubaist Chris Smith that specializes in the old-time big band music of the late 1920s and early 1930s associated with Jelly Roll Morton and King Oliver. *4:30–6:30 p.m., Zingerman's patio, 422 Detroit St. Free. (734) 663–3400.*

★**"Third Thursday Tour": U-M Kelsey Museum of Archaeology.** Thirty-minute docent-led tour of ancient Mediterranean artifacts in the museum collection. *6 p.m., 434 S. State (meet at the Maynard entrance). Free. (734) 764–9304.*

★**Drum Circle: Oz's Music Environment.** All invited to drum with renowned local percussionist **Maruga Booker,** who has played with the likes of George Clinton, Jerry Garcia, and Weather Report. *7 p.m., 1922 Packard. Free. (734) 662–8283.*

Open Mic: Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth. All musicians invited to play a 1- to 3-song set. Material should be family friendly. Hosted by local singer-songwriter

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★**"Salty Summer Sounds Live Music Series": Saline Main Street.** See 6 Thursday. Tonight: **Ain't Dead Yet,** a local classic rock cover band. 7–9 p.m.

"Comedy Jamm": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 6 Thursday. 7:15 p.m.

"Southern Rapture": PTD Productions. See 13 Thursday. 7:30 p.m.

"Gutenberg! The Musical!": Penny Seats Theatre. See 7 Friday. 8 p.m.

21 FRIDAY

★**"Fix-It Friday": Maker Works.** All invited to bring anything that needs fixing—chairs, sweaters, radios, whatever. Maker Works members and staff on hand help with repairs. Handy people invited to assist. Repairs not guaranteed. Also, toy adaptations to make off-the-shelf toys more accessible for people with disabilities. *4–6 p.m., 3765 Plaza. Free. Preregistration required at maker-works.com/fixitfriday. (734) 222–4911.*

★**"Teen & Young Adult Outdoor Skills: Fire Building": Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation.** Teens and young adults invited to learn how to build a fire and cook fries over it. Materials provided. Dress for the weather. Minors must be accompanied by an adult. Inclement weather cancels. *5–6:30 p.m., Island Park Shelter A, 1420 Island Dr. Free, preregistration required at tinyurl.com/a2parksrec or (734) 794–6250. eeelkins@a2gov.org.*

★**"Summer Game Skate": Ann Arbor District Library.** All invited to a free open ice skating session to celebrate the end of this year's AADL Summer Game. Skate rentals, free. *6–8 p.m., Yost Ice Arena, 1116 S. State. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**Music in the Park: Dexter Area Chamber of Commerce.** See 14 Friday. Tonight: **Midnight Special,** a Pinckney-based Texas blues trio. 6:30–9 p.m.

★**John E. Lawrence Summer Jazz Concert Series.** See 7 Friday. Tonight: an ensemble led by Ypsilanti jazz guitar virtuoso, and Summer Jazz Series founder, **John E. Lawrence.** 7 p.m.

Jimmy Pardo: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *Aug. 21 & 22.* A frequent guest on late-night TV, this West Coast comic is known for his engaging personality, expressive face, improv skills, playfully challenging and sparring with his audience, and hilarious railings on all things moronic, including himself. Pardo's shows often sell out. Opening act TBA. *7:15 p.m., 212 S. Fourth Ave. $25 at aacomedy.com & (if available) at the door. Special engagement; no passes, discounts or coupons accepted. (734) 996–9080.*

"Southern Rapture": PTD Productions. See 13 Thursday. 7:30 p.m.

"Gutenberg! The Musical!": Penny Seats Theatre. See 7 Friday. 8 p.m.

"Emma's Wedding(s)": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 8 p.m.

"Comedy Gauntlet": Hear.Say Brewing + Theater. Ninety-second sets by 16 area stand-up comics, advancing tournament-style until a winner is decided. *9:30–10:45 p.m., 2350 W. Liberty. $10 by Aug. 19, or $15 after at heardotsay.com/events & $18 (if available) at the door.*

22 SATURDAY

Annual Bonsai Show: Ann Arbor Bonsai Society. *Aug. 22–23.* Display of more than 100 bonsai grown by club members. Also, a demo by Wyrdwood Bonsai (Lexington, KY) owner David Cutchin, other bonsai demos, expert advice, and a sale of bonsai materials and accessories. *10 a.m.–4 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Admission $3. Metered parking. (734) 647–7600, aabonsaisociety@gmail.com, mbgna.umich.edu.*

Woods & Wildflower Walk: Washtenaw's Own Wildlands (WOW). All 12 & older invited to this nature walk to learn about local plants and plant communities, led by ecologists Manuel Anderson and Jacqueline Courteau. Wear long pants and sturdy shoes. *10 a.m.–noon, Hudson Mills Metropark, 8801 North Territorial, Dexter. Metroparks pass or $10 vehicle entry fee. Space limited; preregistration requested at tinyurl.com/3b57fa3u. washtenawwildlands@gmail.com.*

★**Parkridge Summer Festival/Joe Dulin Day.** Community festival in the park with live R&B, soul, and gospel music TBA, and performances by local drill teams. Also, children's activities, food & merchandise vendors, and tabling by nonprofit resource organizations. No grills, alcohol, or dogs. *11 a.m.–6 p.m., Parkridge Park, 791 Harriet, Ypsi. Free. facebook.com/celebratingourcommunity, tinyurl.com/parkridgefest2026.*

"Monster Truck Wars." Classic monster truck action featuring giant mechanical beasts, each weighing up to 15,000 pounds with 2,000 horsepower, competing against one another on a dirt track, crushing cars, and performing aerial stunts. Also, a **quad bike race** and a **Powerwheel race** for kids 3–9 (preregistration & parental supervision required). A pre-rally **Pit Party** (VIP tickets for an additional $10 fee required) beginning 2 hours before each show offers a chance to ride in a monster truck and meet the drivers. Food and beverage for sale (cash only). Hearing protection strongly recommended. *Noon & 6 p.m., Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Tickets $30 (VIP, $40; Pit Party add-on, $5; kids 3–12, $15; kids 2 & under, free) at monstertrucks.fun or (if available) at the gate. (480) 881–2375.*

★**"Super Smash Bros. Ultimate Tournament": Ann Arbor District Library.** All invited to play a tournament version of this popular Nintendo Switch video game. Participants may bring their own Switch handheld consoles or borrow one from the library. Prizes for top finishers. The library also hosts a **Super Smash Bros. Sparring Soiree** at 1–3 p.m. on Aug. 8 at AADL Pittsfield with low-stakes bouts to help prepare for the tournament. *1–4 p.m., AADL Downtown, 4th fl. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

Quilt Collage Drop-in: Ann Arbor Art Center. All invited to join this drop-in crafting event to make small quilt-inspired collages using fabric scraps, patterned paper, and other media. Led by artists and sisters DaJaniere and Gyona Rice who have an exhibit at the A2AC this month (see Galleries). Supplies provided. No sewing experience necessary. Age 12 & under must be accompanied by an adult. *1–4 p.m., 117 W. Liberty. $15 (one project) at the front desk only. Space limited; no preregistration. (734) 994–8004.*

★**"Dixboro Summer Days": Moonwinks Café and Tavern.** Kids activities, craft vendors, food & drink for sale, and live music. Today's lineup: **Annie Bacon** (1–2 p.m.), a local folk-rock & Americana singer-songwriter; **Mike Gentry** (2:30–3:30 p.m.), a local folk-rock singer-songwriter whom *Guitar Player* editor Jas Obrecht praises as "brilliant at coffeehouse-approved acoustic music, blistering hard rock, and most styles in between"; **James Bourland & the Staches** (4–6 p.m.), a local quintet fronted by Bourland, a singer-guitarist who specializes in American roots music; **Paledave** (6:30–8 p.m.), the stage name of Ypsi indie rock singer-guitarist Dave Buehrer; and **Brian Perrone** (8:30–10 p.m.), a Livonia-based singer-songwriter with a rich crooning voice who plays a melodic brand of pop-inflected alt-rock. *1–10 p.m., 5151 Plymouth Rd. Free. moonwinksa2.com.*

★**Hands-On Filmmaking Workshop: Ann Arbor District Library.** Local filmmaker Caitlin Reid guides participants through simple prompts and creative exercises exploring topics like camera work, lighting, sound, and visual style. *2–3:30 p.m., AADL Downtown, lower level program rm. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**"Crochet Coaster: Citrus Slices": Ann Arbor District Library.** All invited to learn how to crochet in the round, then make a coaster in the shape of a slice of lime, lemon, or orange. *2–4 p.m., AADL Pittsfield. Free.*

seniors

★**"Aging Services and Medicare Fraud Prevention": Ann Arbor District Library Traverwood.** Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County staff discuss their programs for aging residents, along with how to spot and prevent Medicare fraud and abuse. *Aug. 11, 6–7 p.m. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**Activities: Ann Arbor Senior Center,** 1320 Baldwin, a2gov.org/senior. Weekly activities. Preregistration required for most activities by emailing mfulton@a2gov.org, bpatton@a2gov.org, or calling (734) 794–6250. **Pickleball Group** (Mon. 9:30–10:30 a.m.). Free (except as noted). **Movement for Joy** (Wed. 9:30–10:15 a.m.). Free. **Mind Matters Brain Games** (Wed. 10 a.m.) via Zoom at a2gov.org/senior. $2; members, free. **Trivia** (Aug. 5 & 19, 1–2 p.m.) via Zoom at a2gov.org/senior, $2; members, free. **Scrabble** (Wed. 1:30–3 p.m.). $2; members, free. **Senior Park Walks** (Fri. 10–11 a.m.). Guided 1-mile walks at different Ann Arbor parks. $2; members, free. **The Weekly Mingle** (Fri. noon–1:30 p.m.). Prompted conversation on specific topics to meet new people. Bring your own lunch if you like; coffee and tea provided.

Talks & Events: Ann Arbor Senior Center. 1320 Baldwin, a2gov.org/senior. Senior-focused talks. Preregistration required for all talks and meetings by emailing bpatton@a2gov.org, mfulton@a2gov.org, or calling (734) 794–6250. *Aug. 3 (9–10 a.m.):* **"Beginner Birding: Woodland Birds."** 1-mile guided walk. Binoculars provided. Eberwhite Woods. *Aug. 3 (9–10 a.m.):* **"Beginner Birding: Local Birds."** 1-mile guided walk. Binoculars provided. Ruthven Nature Area.. *Aug. 3 (10–11 a.m.):* **"Preventing Falls in Your Home."** Presentation by Cottage West Assisted Living representatives, with a free light brunch. *Aug. 5 (noon–1 p.m.):* **"Hospice 101."** Presentation by Angela Hospice representatives, with a free light lunch. *Aug. 5 & 20 (1–3 p.m.):* **"Sun Prints."** Materials provided. $5 (members, $3). *Aug. 6 (1:30–3:30 p.m.):* **"Travels with George: Along Europe's Atlantic Shores."** Slideshow and talk. *Aug. 7 (10 a.m.–noon):* **"Make Your Own Memory Box."** Materials provided. $5 (members, $3). *Aug. 10 (10–11 a.m.):* **"Stages of Senior Living."** Presentation by a Vibrant Life Senior Living representative, with a free light lunch. *Aug. 10 (6–8 p.m.):* **"Open Mic with Mike!"** All invited to share their music, stories, poetry, or comedy. $2. *Aug. 11 (11 a.m.–1 p.m.):* **"Recipe Exchange Potluck Party."** All invited to bring a favorite homemade dish and its recipe to share. *Aug. 12 (noon–1 p.m.):* **"Complementary Colors Flower Arranging."** All invited to create bouquets. Materials provided. $12 (members, $10). *Aug. 13 & 27 (9:30–10:30 a.m.):* **"Great Backyard Games."** All invited to play lawn games, including Viking chess (Aug. 13) and croquet (Aug. 27), weather permitting. $2 (members, free). *Aug. 17 (10–11 a.m.):* **"Medicare Fraud Prevention."** Presentation by a Jewish Family Services WISE Aging Services representative, with light refreshments. *Aug. 17 & 24 (1–2:30 p.m.):* **"Make Your Own Mosaic Vases."** Materials provided. $12 (members, $10). *Aug. 18 (10–11 a.m.):* **"Neighborhood Bingo Walkabout."** Neighborhood walking scavenger hunt. $2 (members, free). *Aug. 19 (noon–1 p.m.):* **"Advance Care Planning."** Presentation by an Evergreen End of Life Care Foundation of Michigan representative, with a free light lunch. *Aug. 24 (10–11 a.m.):* **"Stay in Charge: Simple Planning for Aging Your Way."** Presentation by an Options Home Care representative, with a free light brunch. *Aug. 25 (9:30–11 a.m.):* **"Senior Walks: Moss and Mindfulness."** Guided meditative walk in a park TBA. *Aug. 26 (noon–1 p.m.):* **"Medicare & Social Security Explained."** Presentation by a MRW Solutions Group representative, with a free light lunch. *Aug. 28 (11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.):* **"Make Your Own Memory Game."** Materials provided. $5 (members, $3).

★**Senior Summer Strolls: Jewish Family Services.** *Aug. 11 & 14.* All age 60+ invited to join a stroll through an Ann Arbor park led by social worker Rebecca Nieubuurt. To walk in **Fuller Park** (Aug. 11), meet in the pool parking lot, 1519 Fuller. To join the **County Farm Park** stroll (Aug. 14), meet on the covered patio near Platt, 2230 Platt. *10 a.m., various locations. (734) 219–5354, rebeccan@jfsannarbor.org.*

★**Talks & Events: Pittsfield Township Senior Center,** 701 W. Ellsworth. Free unless noted. Preregistration & $10/year ($5 for residents) membership required for all events at (734) 822–2120 or recreation.pittsfield-mi.gov. *Aug. 6 (11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.):* **"Hospice & Emergency Services."** St. Croix Hospice representatives discuss the benefits of hospice and details of how it works with emergency services. *Aug. 27 (11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.):* **"Unlocking Mental Agility."** LifeChoices representatives discuss ways to keep a healthy brain.

★**"Senior Fun Day": U-M Turner African American Services Council.** A program of dancing to recorded and live music TBA, stand-up comedy, light refreshments, and more. *Aug. 15, 1–3:30 p.m. Ypsi Senior Center, 1015 N. Congress. Free, preregistration required at (734) 998–9353. info.taasc@umich.edu, michmed.org/taasc.*

★**Activities: U-M Turner Senior Wellness Program.** (2401 Plymouth Rd.). Weekly activities. Free (except as noted). Preregistration required for some events. For Zoom links see calendar at tinyurl.com/a2-turner-cal. (734) 998–9353, tswp.info@umich.edu, michmed.org/tswp. **Tai Chi** (Mon., Wed., & Fri. noon–12:30 p.m. via Zoom). **Walking Off the Pounds** (Mon., Wed. & Fri. 12:30–1 p.m. via Zoom). **Euchre** (Mon. 1–4 p.m. in person). **Meditation Drop-In** (Tues. 10–11:30 a.m. via Zoom). **American Mah-jongg** (Tues. 10 a.m.–noon in person). **Bridge** (Tues. & Fri. 1–4 p.m. in person). Call if interested. **Chinese Mah-jongg** (Wed. 1-4 p.m. & Thurs. 10 a.m.–noon in person). **Wise Guys: Conversations for Men** (Thurs. 2–3:30 p.m. via Zoom). **Una Tertulia** (Aug. 4 & 18, 3:15–5 p.m. in person). Fluent Spanish conversation. **LGBTQ+ Sip & Chat** (Aug. 12 & 26, noon–2 p.m. in person).

★**"Healthy Living Presentations": U-M Turner Senior Wellness Program.** 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. Preregistration required at (734) 998–9353, tswp.info@umich.edu, or michmed.org/tswp. *Aug. 5 (10–11:30 a.m.):* **"From Overwhelmed to Organized: How Your Environment Affects Your Well-Being."** With Sharon McRill from The Betty Brigade. *Aug. 13 (1–2 p.m.):* **"What Is LongevityTech?"** U-M Urban Tech professor Sheng-Hung Lee talks about developing technologies that support long-term well-being.

ANJU LOKAM

The International Society for Krishna Consciousness celebrates Rath Yatra, or the Festival of Chariots, on August 1 in Lillie Park South (see listing on p. 48).

(734) 327–4200.

"Emma's Wedding(s)": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 3 & 8 p.m.

★**"Broken Branch Ranch Breakdown."** One-day festival put on by the organizers of this long-running outdoor concert series. Bands include **The Nitpickers** (3 p.m.), an Ypsi ensemble led by singer-guitarist John Delcamp which plays an eclectic mix of classic country and folk music; Ypsi singer-songwriter and fingerstyle guitarist **Eric Moore** (3:45 p.m.); blues- and funk-inflected local folk-rock quintet **Anna Lee's Company** (4:30 p.m.); **Adam Labeaux & the Legacy,** (6:30 p.m.) a band fronted by local singer-songwriter (and event co-organizer) Labeaux, joined by Saginaw-based pop-folk singer-songwriter **Amy Petty;** rowdy country-folk project **Michigan Barstool Anthems** (8 p.m.), led by local singer-guitarist Dan Ripke, featuring members of the local acoustic string jam quintet **Back Forty**; and 90s-inspired Ypsi alt-rock band **Head Full of Ghosts** (8:45 p.m.). Attendees encouraged to bring their own camp chairs, blankets, & coolers. *3–10 p.m., 6090 Plymouth Rd. (please park off the pavement). Free; tips accepted. facebook.com/a2brokenbranch.*

Neon Night Market. Craft sale and "family-friendly rave," with vendors selling art, clothing, and more. Also, food trucks, live art demonstrations, kids activities, a silent disco, and live music TBA. Neon-themed costumes encouraged. *5–11 p.m., Washtenaw Farm Council grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Tickets $5 (kids 10 and under, free) at the gate. onestopsoulshop.com.*

Roller Derby Doubleheader: Ann Arbor Roller Derby. Two roller derby games featuring A2RD travel & local teams vs. **Downriver Dolls** (Woodhaven) & another visiting team TBA. Food trucks, concessions, & merchandise available. *5:30 p.m. (doors open at 4:30 p.m.), Buhr Park Ice Rink, 2751 Packard. Tickets $18 at the door or online at a2rollerderby.com. Kids age 12 & under, free with paying adult (limit 3 kids per adult).*

Comedy Mystery Dinner Show: The Dinner Detective Ann Arbor. Dinner served while actors masquerading as fellow diners enact a comical murder mystery in which audience members may find themselves prime suspects. *6–9 p.m., Ann Arbor Marriott, 1275 S. Huron St., Ypsi. $75 includes gratuity. Preregistration required at thedinnerdetective.com. (866) 496–0535.*

Jimmy Pardo: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 21 Friday. 7:15 p.m.

"Southern Rapture": PTD Productions. See 13 Thursday. 7:30 p.m.

"Who Can Say?": Hear.Say Brewing + Theater. Game show–style performance by experienced improvisers responding to prompts and challenges. *7:30–8:30 p.m., 2350 W. Liberty. $10 in advance at heardotsay.com/events & $12 at the door.*

"Gutenberg! The Musical!": Penny Seats Theatre. See 7 Friday. 8 p.m.

23 SUNDAY

★**Horse Show: Spur of the Moment Club.** A judged amateur riding event featuring kids and adults riding English, western, and halter styles. Concessions. *8:30 a.m.–about 7 p.m., Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd., Saline. Free admission. admin@spurhorseshows.org, spurhorseshows.org.*

★**"Sharon Mills Tour": Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission.** Docent-led tour of historic building and grounds along the River Raisin, which includes a hydroelectric generator that was one of many southeast Michigan facilities that comprised Henry Ford's Village Industry project. *1–5 p.m., Sharon Mills Park, 5701 Sharon Hollow (between Pleasant Lake & Sharon Valley rds.), Manchester. Free. (734) 971–6337, washtenaw.org/registerparks.*

★**Annual Tomato Tasting: Project Grow Community Gardens.** All invited to taste and note the differences between heirloom tomatoes of all colors, shapes, and sizes from the Project Grow gardens, including oxhearts, saladettes, beefsteaks, cherries, dwarfs, and more. Bring your own beverage. *1–3 p.m., County Farm Park Pavilion, 2230 Platt. Free. Parking is limited. info@projectgrowgardens.org.*

★**"Make Your Own Trading Card Game Cards": Ann Arbor District Library.** All invited to design custom game cards from a favorite trading card game, then print one and put it together with holographic foil. *1–3 p.m., AADL Downtown, Secret Lab. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**All-Ages Mario Kart Tournament: Ann Arbor District Library.** Adults and kids age 8 & up invited to compete in a tournament format of this popular Nintendo Switch video game. Participants may bring their own Switch handheld console or borrow one from the library. *1–4 p.m., AADL Downtown, 4th fl. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**Dharma Disc Golfers: Jewel Heart Buddhist Center.** All invited to play 9 or 18 holes. Discs available for those who don't have them. Weather permitting; ground may be muddy. *2–4 p.m., Mary Beth Doyle Park, 3500 Birch Hollow. Free. programs@jewelheart.org, jewelheart.org/chapters/ann-arbor.*

Annual Corn Roast: Ann Arbor Ski Club. Newcomers and members invited to this event kicking off the club's season of trips and activities. With live music by **Velvet Walrus,** a local dance band with a huge repertoire of classic, New Wave, and modern rock hits. Grilled corn, hot dogs, beer, wine, soft drinks, and preheated grills provided. Bring a dish to pass and, if you like, your own food to grill. Age 21+ only. *2–6 p.m., Montibeller Park, 4305 Ellsworth, Ypsi. $10 admission (members, $5). a2skiclub@gmail.com, a2skiclub.org.*

★**Ann Arbor Storytellers' Guild.** All invited to listen to guild members swap stories or bring their own to tell. *2–4 p.m., Schuler Books, Westgate Shopping Center. Free.*

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★**"The Sounds and Stories of Africa": Ann Arbor District Library.** Taylor (MI) storyteller George Oo, who uses the stage name **Fishmonger Stories**, performs songs and tells stories from various African traditions. *2–3 p.m., AADL Traverwood. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

Summer Drum Circle: Michigan Friends Center. All invited to join a group drumming session led by percussionist Curtis Glatter. *2–4 p.m., 7748 Clark Lake Rd., Chelsea. $5–$20 suggested donation. Preregistration requested by emailing manager@mfcenter.org or at mfcenter.org.*

"Emma's Wedding(s)": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 2 p.m.

"Mic Drop": Hear.Say Brewing + Theater. Experienced improvisers compete by improvising songs with live accompaniment. Followed at 7:30 p.m. by a pay-what-you-want **Musical Improv Jam:** All invited to sing or move in musical/comical improv games and exercises led by a facilitator and accompanist. No experience required. Spectators welcome. *6:30 p.m., 2350 W. Liberty. $15 in advance at heardotsay.com/events & $18 (if available) at the door.*

★**7th Annual Glee Club Summer Sing: Measure for Measure.** All male singers age 14 & up invited to join this 80-member local men's chorus to sing 20 men's glee club standards. *6:30–8:30 p.m., St. Luke Lutheran Church, 4105 Washtenaw Ave. Preregistration requested at measure-for-measure.org. Free. (734) 649–7664.*

24 MONDAY

★**"Hanging Geometric Shapes": Ann Arbor District Library.** Adults and teens invited to fold paper to create a set of 3D pyramids to hang as decorations. *6–7 p.m., AADL Downtown, Secret Lab. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**Open Mic: Dzanc House.** All invited to share acoustic music, short stories, or poetry. Sign up on arrival. *6–8 p.m., 402 S. Huron St., Ypsi. Free. dzanchouse.org/all-events.*

"Crime Fictions: How Racist Lies Built a System of Mass Wrongful Conviction": Literati Book Club. All invited to discuss Brown University sociology professor Nicole Gonzalez Van Cleve's new book. *6:30 p.m., 124 E. Washington. Tickets $5 in advance only at literatibookstore.com (can be redeemed for store credit). (734) 585–5567.*

25 TUESDAY

Chelsea Community Fair: Chelsea Fairgrounds. *Aug. 25–29.* **Fair rides** and concessions (Wed. & Thurs. 3–10 p.m., Fri. noon–10 p.m., and Sat. 1–10 p.m.), a bingo tent, livestock shows, **demolition derbies** (Tues. & Wed. 7:30 p.m.), **Lost Nations Rodeo** (Thurs. 7:30 p.m.), **truck & tractor pulls** (Fri. & Sat. 7 p.m.), a **fair queen contest** (Fri. 7 p.m.), exhibits of baking, canning, floriculture, arts, and hobbies. The fair officially kicks off with a **Children's Parade** (Tues. 5:30 p.m.) for ages 3–12 on decorated bikes & wagons or on foot from the municipal lot behind Common Grill to the fairgrounds, and ends with the **Chelsea Fair Parade** (Sat. 1 p.m.), which includes the high-energy Celtic-inspired **Chelsea House Orchestra,** and many more local favorites. Complete schedule available at chelseafair.org. *10 a.m.–10 p.m., Chelsea Fairgrounds, Old US-12 at Old Manchester Rd., Chelsea. Daily admission, $10; 5-day pass, $30 (middle & high school students and seniors 65 & older, $20; kids age 10 & under, free). Free admission for seniors age 65 & over on Thurs. before 5 p.m., for active or inactive U.S. service members with ID on Fri., and for families on Fri. from 11 a.m.–3 p.m. $5 pass for women on Fri. before 11 a.m. (734) 475–1270, chelseafair@gmail.com, chelseafair.org.*

★**"Colorful Pajaki Chandeliers": Ann Arbor District Library.** Adults & teens

Key to Locations

AADL: Ann Arbor District Library, (734) 327–4200, aadl.org. Events (all free) offered at **Downtown** (343 S. Fifth Ave.), **Westgate** (2503 Jackson Ave.), **Traverwood** (3333 Traverwood), **Malletts Creek** (3090 E. Eisenhower), and **Pittsfield** (2359 Oak Valley) branches, as well as the **AADL Warehouse** (265 Parkland Plz.).

HSHV: Humane Society of Huron Valley, (734) 661–3575, humaneed@hshv.org. 3100 Cherry Hill Rd. Events also hosted at **Tiny Lions** Lounge & Adoption Center (5245 Jackson Rd., ste. A1). hshv.org.

ELEVA POTTER

The city's Parks & Recreation outdoor story time takes place every Tuesday in parks around Ann Arbor.

★*Every Sat. (9:30 a.m.):* **Storytelling Series: Broadway Park West.** Stories told by Chelsea fiction writer Steve Daut, a playwright whose storytelling style draws on his experience as a magician and comic. *841 Broadway. lowertowna2.org/events-calendar.*

Aug. 1 (11 a.m.–noon & 1–2 p.m.): **"Super Science Saturday: Wacky Science": Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum.** Veteran educational entertainer Doug Scheer presents 2 programs for kids grade K & up that blend science and humor to explore everything from unexpected physics to mind-boggling chemistry. *220 E. Ann. $16 museum admission (babies under 2, free). (734) 995–9439, discoverscienceandnature.org/aahom.*

★*Aug. 1 (11:15 a.m.–noon):* **"Greece! Rome! Monsters!": U-M Kelsey Museum of Archaeology Read and Look.** A Kelsey staffer reads John Harris & Calef Brown's jazzy retelling of some monster myths, including the Harpies, Medusa, and Chimera, followed by a chance for kids ages 4–8 (accompanied by an adult) to explore the museum's collection to find items pictured in the book. *434 S. State. Free. (734) 764–9304.*

★*Aug. 1 (noon–1 p.m.):* **Unicorn Masks: AADL Pittsfield.** A chance for kids grades K–5 to make a unicorn mask out of felt, glittery cardstock, sparkly jewels, and other craft supplies.

★*Aug. 1 (noon–1:30 p.m.):* **"Tabletop Sports Extravaganza": AADL Downtown.** Kids grades K–5 invited to make and play old-school tabletop sports games, including hockey, paper football, and basketball.

★*Aug. 1 (3–6 p.m.):* **"Turntables & Tunes": Hudson Mills Metropark.** An afternoon of music and dance geared to kids ages 9–12 (all ages welcome), with a live performance by the Detroit-based techno-electronic **Vintage Future Band,** and dancing to tunes spun by a DJ. Kids can try out real DJ equipment for themselves, and see how DJs mix and create music. Also, an inflatable obstacle course, bounce houses, yard games, face painting, and ice cream. *Hudson Mills Metropark Activity Center, 8801 North Territorial, Dexter. Free, but Metroparks pass or $10 vehicle entrance fee required. (734) 426–8211, ext. 6531, hm.interpreter@metroparks.com.*

★*Aug. 2 (11 a.m.–noon):* **"Paw Patrol Party": AADL Pittsfield.** Kids ages 2–5, accompanied by an adult, invited for games and crafts to celebrate this popular kids show.

★*Every Mon.–Fri. (different times):* **Preschool Storytimes: AADL.** Half-hour program of stories and songs for kids ages 2–5 (with caregiver). ***Pittsfield*** *(Mon. 10:30 a.m.),* ***Downtown*** *(Tues. 11 a.m.),* ***Malletts Creek*** *(Tues. 11 a.m. & Wed. 10:30 a.m.),* ***Traverwood*** *(Thurs. 11 a.m.), and* ***Westgate*** *(Fri. 1 p.m.).*

★*Every Mon.–Wed. & Fri., (different times):* **Playgroups for Babies: AADL.** Fifteen minutes of stories, rhymes, and songs led by AADL staffers, followed by a short open playtime. For kids up to 24 months (with caregiver). No older siblings. ***Malletts Creek*** *(Mon. 10:30 a.m., except Aug. 3),* ***Traverwood*** *(Tues. 11 a.m.),* ***Westgate & Pittsfield*** *(Wed. 10:30 a.m.), and* ***Downtown*** *(Fri. 10:30 a.m.).*

★*Aug. 3 (10:30–11:30 a.m.):* **"Little Play Date": AADL Westgate.** Open playtime for babies & preschoolers, accompanied by an adult.

★*Every Mon. (10:30–11:30 a.m.):* **"K–5 Nature Crafts": Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation.** Kids grades K–5, accompanied by an adult, invited for a themed group craft, a walk, and games. Dress for the weather and bring snacks. Weather permitting. *Aug. 3:* **Fire Pit Fries** (Hunt Park, 1035 Daniel). *Aug. 10:* **Clay Prints** (Garden Homes Park, 1800 Franklin). *Aug. 17:* **Pine-cone Bird Feeders** (Leslie Park, 2900 Leslie Park Cir.). *Aug. 24:* **Bird Feeder Craft** (White Oak Park, 2665 White Oak Dr.). *Meet at the playground in each park. Free, preregistration required at tinyurl.com/a2parksrec or (734) 794–6250. epotter@a2gov.org.*

★*Aug. 3 (1–2 p.m. & 2:30–3:30 p.m.):* **"Rock On: Digging Into Earth's Hidden Treasures": AADL Pittsfield.** Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum and Leslie Science & Nature Center staff lead a program for kids grades K–5 exploring rocks, minerals, and the processes that formed them.

★*Aug. 3 (3–3:30 p.m.):* **Puppet Show: AADL Downtown.** AADL storytellers present a fun and silly puppet show for kids grades preK–3.

★*Every Tues. (10:30–11:30 a.m.):* **"Outdoor Story Time": Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation.** Kids ages 2–5 invited, with an adult, for stories, play, and crafts on a theme. Dress for the weather and bring snacks. Weather permitting. *Aug. 4:* **Mushrooms** (Hunt Park, 1035 Daniel). *Aug. 11:* **Pond Life** (Garden Homes Park, 1800 Franklin). *Aug. 18:* **Fruits** (Leslie Park, 2900 Leslie Park Cir.). *Aug. 25:* **Decomposers** (White Oak Park, 2665 White Oak Dr.). *Meet at the playground in each park. Free, preregistration required at tinyurl.com/a2parksrec or (734) 794–6250. epotter@a2gov.org.*

★*Aug. 4 (2–3 p.m.):* **Mermaid Sparkle Wands: AADL Westgate.** Kids grades K–5 invited to make and decorate a sparkly seashell or starfish wand fit for a mermaid.

★*Every Thurs. (10:30–11:30 a.m.):* **"Nature Play": Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation.** Kids age 5 & under, accompanied by an adult, invited for self-guided exploration of nature through play. Natural materials provided. Dress for the weather and bring snacks. Weather permitting. *Fuller Park playground, 1519 Fuller Rd. Free, preregistration required at tinyurl.com/a2parksrec or (734) 794–6250. epotter@a2gov.org.*

★*Aug. 5 (3–4 p.m.):* **"Light-Up Paper Helicopters": AADL Downtown.** Kids grades K–5 invited to make a paper helicopter that lights up.

★*Aug. 5 (7–7:30 p.m.):* **"Pajama Jam Storytime": AADL Pittsfield.** AADL storytellers lead a program of sleep-themed stories and songs for kids ages 2–5. Dress in pajamas and bring a favorite stuffed animal or blanket.

★*Aug. 6, 10, & 12 (10:30–11 a.m., different branch locations):* **"Preschool ArtStart": AADL.** AADL staff lead children ages 2–5, accompanied by an adult, in arts and crafts, with an emphasis on fun. *AADL Malletts Creek (Thurs.), AADL Traverwood (Mon.), & AADL Pittsfield (Wed.).*

★*Aug. 6 (1–1:45 p.m.):* **"Young Scientists": AADL Malletts Creek.** Science-themed stories and simple science experiments for preschoolers accompanied by an adult.

★*Aug. 6 (2–3 p.m.):* **"Anything Goes Crafts": AADL Downtown.** Unstructured craft time with leftover program supplies for kids grades K–5.

★*Aug. 7 (noon–1 p.m.):* **"Roll A Monster": AADL Traverwood.** Kids grades K–5 invited to assemble a paper monster using parts determined by random dice rolls.

★*Aug. 7 (noon–1:30 p.m.):* **"Robots are STEAM-Tastic!": AADL Pittsfield.** Kids grades K–6 invited to interact with 3D-printed and cardboard robot models to predict robot behavior in different environments. Led by Indiana-based robotics engineer and educator Carlotta Berry.

Aug. 8 & 22 (10–11:30 a.m.): **"Rescue Reading": HSHV.** Kids ages 6–11 invited to work on their reading skills by reading to adoptable animals, using their own or provided books. Also, a group read-aloud and a dog meet-and-greet. No adults. *$10. Preregistration required at hshv.org/event-calendar. (734) 661–3575, humaneed@hshv.org.*

★*Aug. 8 (1–2 p.m.):* **"Paper Lantern Jellyfish": AADL Traverwood.** Kids grades K–5 invited to make a hanging decoration out of a repurposed paper lantern, LED lights, & other craft supplies.

★*Aug. 9 (10–11 a.m.):* **"Summer Storytime": Literati Bookstore.** Literati staff read picture books and lead kids activities TBA. *Main St., in front of Pretzel Bell. (734) 585–5567, literatibookstore.com.*

★*Aug. 9 (noon–1 p.m.):* **"Spy Academy!": AADL Malletts Creek.** A chance for kids grades K–5 to learn spycraft techniques,

invited to use straw, colorful paper, twine, and a wooden hoop to make these Polish decorations used to celebrate important life events like birthdays and holidays. *5–7 p.m., AADL Downtown, lower level program rm. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**Riso Lab: Ann Arbor District Library.** All invited to use analog tools to create a 2-color design for a 2026 calendar and print it with the lab's Risograph duplicator, a digital screen printer similar to a photocopier. *5–7 p.m., AADL Downtown, Secret Lab. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**"Tomato Bonanza": Ann Arbor District Library.** The Lakehouse Bakery (Chelsea) owner Keegan Rodgers hosts a hands-on introduction to making great tomato sauce and finding other uses for the abundance of tomatoes from your garden or local markets. Tasting. *6–7 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**"Tree Town Uke Drop-in": Oz's Music Environment.** Musicians of all ability levels invited to play ukulele with members of Michigan's oldest ukulele club. *7 p.m., 1922 Packard. Free. (734) 662–8283.*

★**Open Meeting: Ann Arbor Grail Singers.** All women invited to learn about this women's chamber choir dedicated to performing and recording a variety of music, especially lesser-known repertoire from the Medieval, Renaissance, and Baroque periods and works by women composers. This meeting includes auditions for new members. *7–9 p.m., contact for location. Free, but reservations required by calling (734) 800–4065 or emailing annarborgrailsingers@gmail.com. annarborgrailsingers.org.*

"Long Story Short": Hear.Say Brewing + Theater. New storytelling event where participants share true, personal stories inspired by a different theme each month. *7:30–8:30 p.m., 2350 W. Liberty. $15 in advance at heardotsay.com/events & $18 (if available) at the door.*

26 WEDNESDAY

"Emma's Wedding(s)": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 3 p.m.

★**"Weaving Romance Around Suspense": Ann Arbor District Library.** Detroit-area romance writer Sylvia Hubbard discusses the basics of fiction writing, how suspense techniques and romance story beats work together, and the ingredients of effective plot twists. *6–7 p.m., AADL Westgate. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

Figure Drawing: Dzanc House. All skill levels welcome to draw a live model. Bring your own art supplies. Light refreshments. *6:30–9 p.m., 402 S. Huron St., Ypsi. $10 to pay model. Preregistration required by the Mon. before the event. dzanchouse.org/register-for-events.*

★**Summer Sight Reading Night: Dexter Community Orchestra.** All musicians invited to sight read and play orchestral music with the DCO in an open-air setting. Participants are asked to download the music ahead of time and bring their own music stand. Chairs provided. *7–9 p.m., Dexter American Legion Picnic Pavilion, 8225 Dexter-Chelsea Rd., Dexter. Free. Preregistration required at dextercommunityorchestra.org. (734) 223–2841, dextercommunityorchestra@gmail.com.*

★**"Community Sing with Matt Watroba": Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth.** Local singer-songwriter and WKAR FM (MSU) folk music show host Watroba leads a sing-along of songs from the various branches of American folk music. No experience necessary. *7–8:30 p.m., 704 Airport Blvd., ste. 1. Free. (734) 327–0270, interfaithspirit.org.*

27 THURSDAY

★**Mavis Staples: Sonic Lunch/Marquee Arts.** See 6 Thursday. Today: This legendary 86-year-old gospel, soul, and R&B diva possesses a quintessentially gospel voice. With a trademark blend of muscular power and shimmering grace punctuated at times with a startling growl, her luminous singing

kids calendar (ages 12 & under)

including code writing, disguises, and how to conceal secret documents.

★*Aug. 9 (noon–1:30 p.m.):* **"Make Your Own Flag": AADL Pittsfield.** Kids grades K–5 invited to make a flag using a variety of craft materials.

★*Aug. 10 (3–4 p.m.):* **Mermaid Crafts: AADL Malletts Creek.** A chance for kids grades K–5 to make a mermaid crown and wand.

★*Aug. 10 (3–4 p.m.):* **"Fabulous Fingerprint Necklaces": AADL Downtown.** Kids grades K–5 invited to make wearable necklaces out of fingerprint ink, a small charm, and other basic supplies.

★*Aug. 11 (2–3 p.m.):* **"Frog and Toad Celebration": AADL Westgate.** Library staff read Arnold Lobel's humorous, compassionate stories about these animal friends who stick together through thick and thin, followed by a chance to make Frog and Toad–themed crafts. Aimed at kids grades preK–3.

★*Aug. 12 (noon–1 p.m.):* **"A Painting with Pasta": AADL Downtown.** A chance for kids grades K–5 to make fish skeletons, a car, or other design out of spaghetti, macaroni, orecchiette, farfalle, and other pasta shapes.

★*Aug. 12 (noon–1 p.m.):* **"Unicorn Flower Pots": AADL Traverwood.** Kids grades K–5 invited to make a little unicorn-themed flower pot, then add a provided live plant.

Aug. 13 (10 a.m.–noon): **"Littles and Coffee": Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum.** Open play time for kids age 5 & under (accompanied by an adult). Free coffee & tea. *AAHOM preK space, 220 E. Ann. $16 museum admission (babies under 2, free). (734) 995–9439, discoverscienceandnature.org/aahom.*

★*Aug. 13 (11 a.m.–noon):* **"Paper Lanterns": AADL Downtown.** A chance for kids grades K–5 to make a watercolor paper lantern.

★*Aug. 13 (11 a.m.–noon & 12:30–1:30 p.m.):* **"Insect Investigations": AADL Malletts Creek.** Leslie Science & Nature Center staff show live insects TBA and discuss animal adaptations and how scientists compare and contrast different creatures. Aimed at kids grades K–5.

★*Aug. 14 (1–2 p.m.):* **"Paper Penguin Friends": AADL Traverwood.** Kids grades K–5 invited to make a colony of penguins using paper, scissors, and glue.

★*Aug. 14 (1–2 p.m.):* **"Create a Character": AADL Pittsfield.** A chance for kids grades K–5 and their parents to work together on a drawing activity sheet. Led by local children's book writer & illustrator Amy Nielander.

Aug. 14 (6–6:30 p.m.): **"Spider-Man Storytime": Recess Café.** Kids 10 & under (accompanied by an adult) invited to take photos, play movement games, and enjoy a superhero dance party with a costumed Spider-Man performer. *208 S. Ashley. Tickets $9 per child (caregivers free with child ticket), only in advance at starbrightentertainmenta2.com.*

Aug. 15 (10:30–11:30 a.m.): **"Little Paws Toddler Time": HSHV.** Stories, crafts, & fingerplays. Also, a chance to interact with adoptable cats & dogs and make a toy or treat for the animals. For kids ages 2–5 with accompanying adult. *$5 (babies under age 1, free). Space limited; preregistration required at hshv.org/event-calendar. (734) 661–3575, humaneed@hshv.org.*

★*Aug. 17 (noon–1 p.m.):* **"Tiny Window Greenhouse": AADL Westgate.** A chance for kids grades preK–5 to make a small greenhouse out of paper and a ziplock bag to tape in a window and watch seedlings grow.

★*Aug. 17 (noon–1 p.m.):* **"Chicken Storytime & Craft": AADL Traverwood.** Kids grades preK–3 invited to listen to AADL staff read chicken stories, followed by a chance to make a paper plate chicken.

★*Aug. 18 (11 a.m.–noon):* **"Pool Noodle Pom-Pom Launcher": AADL Downtown.** Kids grades K–5 invited to decorate a pool noodle, then use it to launch pom-poms and see how far they fly.

★*Aug. 18 (11 a.m.–noon):* **"Printmaking with Found Objects": AADL Pittsfield.** A chance for kids age 5 & up to create prints using bubble wrap, pencil erasers, potato mashers, and other everyday household items.

★*Aug. 18 (2–3 p.m.):* **"Summer Painting": AADL Westgate.** Kids grades preK–5 invited to create a colorful seasonal painting using precut summer shapes.

★*Aug. 19 (3–4 p.m.):* **"DIY Stamps": AADL Westgate.** A chance for kids grades preK–5 to use foam shapes to make their own rubber stamps.

★*Aug. 19 (3–4:30 p.m.):* **"HEXBUG Adventures": AADL Pittsfield.** Kids grades K–5 invited to play with the library's robotic HEXBUGs in an interactive obstacle course.

★*Aug. 20 (noon–1 p.m.):* **"Rubber Band Powered Car": AADL Downtown.** A chance for kids grades K–5 to use simple materials to make a fun and zippy car that can be launched with a rubber band.

★*Aug. 20 (noon–1 p.m.):* **"Sesame Street Party": AADL Malletts Creek.** Kids grades preK–1 invited to make *Sesame Street* crafts and listen to music from the show.

Aug. 21 (10:30–11 a.m.): **"Moana Storytime": Recess Café.** Kids 10 & under (accompanied by an adult) invited to listen to stories, play games, take a mini dance lesson, and sing "How Far I'll Go" with a costumed *Moana* performer. *208 S. Ashley. Tickets $9 per child (caregivers free with child ticket), only in advance at starbrightentertainmenta2.com.*

★*Aug. 21 (2–3 p.m.):* **Handsewn Felt Envelopes: AADL Pittsfield.** Kids grades K–5 invited to use colorful felt and some simple stitches to make an envelope with a button closure.

★*Aug. 21 (2–3 p.m.):* **"Decorate Your Shield": AADL Traverwood.** A chance for kids grades K–5 to make a cardboard shield, then decorate it with a family crest or coat of arms.

Aug. 21 (7:15–8:45 p.m.): **"Cats and Kids": Tiny Lions.** Kids ages 6–11 invited to spend time with adoptable cats and kittens at the Tiny Lions Lounge. Also, crafts & games, popcorn, and juice. No adults. *$20. Preregistration required at hshv.org/event-calendar. (734) 661–3575, humaneed@hshv.org.*

★*Aug. 22 (10 a.m.–11:30 a.m.):* **"PlayLab: Block Printing": Ann Arbor Art Center.** Kids ages 8–12, accompanied by an adult, invited to join DaJaniere and Gyona Rice, who have an exhibit at the A2AC this month (see Galleries), for an exploration of the principles of design while completing a custom tote bag and postcard using block printing techniques. *117 W. Liberty. Free, but preregistration required (space limited) at annarborartcenter.org.*

★*Aug. 22 (noon–1 p.m.):* **"Craft Stick Bird Feeders": AADL Malletts Creek.** Kids grades K–5 invited to create a bird feeder out of craft sticks.

★*Aug. 22 (noon–1:30 p.m.) & Aug. 26 (2–3:30 p.m.):* **Nature Journaling: AADL Traverwood.** Natural Area Preservation staff help kids in grades K–5 make a nature journal out of recycled paper, then practice adding scientific observations and renderings.

★*Aug. 23 (11 a.m.–noon):* **"Rumi Meet & Greet": Starbright Entertainment.** Kids 12 & under with adult accompaniment invited to meet and take photos with one of the heroines from *KPop Demon Hunters.* Costumes encouraged. *The Little Seedling, 2465 W. Stadium. Free. starbrightentertainmenta2.com.*

★*Aug. 23 (2–3 p.m.):* **"Paper Bag Monsters": AADL Malletts Creek.** Kids grades K–5 invited to make a monster friend out of paper bags, pipe cleaners, and a variety of precut paper shapes.

★*Aug. 24 (11 a.m.–noon):* **"Mischievous Yarn Monsters": AADL Westgate.** A chance for kids in grades K–5 to make silly little monsters out of yarn, pipe cleaners, and googly eyes.

★*Aug. 24 (11 a.m.–*noon): **"Very Hungry Caterpillar Paper Crafts": AADL Downtown.** Kids grades K–5 invited to use construction paper to make a caterpillar like the one featured in Eric Carle's popular picture book.

★*Aug. 25 (1–2 p.m.):* **"Bug Crafts": AADL Westgate.** A chance for kids grades K–5 to make a ladybug headband, a cicada mask, or a shiny clothespin dragonfly.

★*Aug. 25 (1–2 p.m.):* **"Octopus Mobiles": AADL Pittsfield.** A chance for kids grades K–5 to make a few paper octopuses and turn them into a hanging mobile.

★*Aug. 26 (2–3 p.m.):* **"Paper Plate Flying Jellyfish": AADL Malletts Creek.** Kids grades K–5 invited to combine everyday objects and glittering craft supplies to make a jellyfish that can move.

★*Aug. 27 (3–4 p.m.):* **"Animal Mosaics": AADL Malletts Creek.** A chance for kids grades K–5 to make a mosaic using a dog or cat template and paper squares.

★*Aug. 27 (3–4 p.m.):* **"Sock Puppets": AADL Westgate.** Kids grades K–5 invited to make sock puppets using provided materials.

★*Aug. 28 (10–11 a.m.):* **"All About Sun": Hudson Mills Metropark.** A hands-on nature adventure for kids ages 3–6, accompanied by an adult. The program includes stories about the sun, outdoor exploration, and creative activities. Held both indoors and outside, weather permitting. *Hudson Mills Metropark Activity Center, 8801 North Territorial, Dexter. $5 per child (adults, free). Preregistration required by 4 p.m. Aug. 27 at bit.ly/metroparks0826. Metroparks pass or $10 vehicle entrance fee required. (734) 426–8211, ext. 6531, hm.interpreter@metroparks.com.*

★*Aug. 28 (noon–1 p.m.):* **"S'more Pals": AADL Pittsfield.** A chance for kids grades K–5 to make a s'more-shaped plush toy.

★*Aug. 28 (noon–1 p.m.):* **"Animal Paper Craft: Lizards and Coyotes": AADL Traverwood.** Kids grades K–5 invited to cut and paste paper to create a desert scene.

★*Aug. 29 (noon–4 p.m.):* **"Healthy Kids Day & Back-to-School Bash": Ann Arbor YMCA.** Community party with bounce houses, sport stations, dancing to music spun by a DJ, a free backpack giveaway, face painting, and more. *Fireman's Park, 8795 MacArthur, Ypsi. Free. facebook.com/share/1e65sykxfk.*

★*Aug. 29 (2–3 p.m.):* **"Sand Art": AADL Malletts Creek.** A chance for kids grades K–5 to make art by pouring and layering different colored sand.

★*Aug. 29 (2–3 p.m.):* **"Make Your Own Story Cubes": AADL Traverwood.** Kids grades K–5 invited to design and create these cubes that can be rolled like dice for storytelling prompts.

★ *Denotes a free event*

is designed to, in her words, "leave people feeling better than I found them." Her 2025 solo album, *Sad and Beautiful World,* a fierce and loving dispatch for grim times, appeared on several critics' year-end lists. Opener: Brooklyn singer-guitarist **Mei Semones** performs jazz-influenced indie pop originals with lyrics in both Japanese and English. *11:30 a.m., Michigan Theater. Free (doors close when seats are full). marquee-arts.org/live-events.*

"Emma's Wedding(s)": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 3 & 7:30 p.m.

★**U-M Clements Library Tour.** *Aug. 27 & 28.* Hour-long docent-led tour of the Clements's early American history collection highlighted by the new exhibit ***Up, Up, and Away: A History of Ballooning in America.*** *4–5 p.m., 909 South University. Free; preregistration required at clements.umich.edu. (734) 649–3370.*

"Instrument Petting Zoo": Ann Arbor YMCA. Members of the **Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra** offer kids and adults a chance to explore and play violins, cellos, and wind instruments. *5–6 p.m., YMCA Michigan Rm., 400 W. Washington. $10 (YMCA members, $5), preregistration by Aug. 20 required at tinyurl.com/aayipz. annarborymca.org.*

★**Annual Local Food Festival: Ann Arbor Farmers Market/City Office of Sustainability.** Family-friendly event with produce tastings, talks by food growers, cooking demos, games, kids activities, a cookbook exchange, and live music TBA. Food trucks. *5–8 p.m., Farmers Market Pavilion. Free. a2gov.org/localfoodfest.*

"Gallery Night." Show and sale of art at **Chris Nordin Studio, Cluster Museum, Gutman Gallery, WSG Gallery,** and other local businesses, including **TeaHaus, Thistle & Bess,** and **Found,** all within walking distance of each other. Works are in all sorts of media by local artists, some of whom are on hand to answer questions, give short talks, and demonstrate techniques. Also, a group of **Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra** musicians performs chamber music (5–6:30 p.m.) at 230 N. Fourth Ave. in Sculpture Plaza. *5–8 p.m., 307 N. Main, 111 & 117 E. Ann, and 118, 204, 222, & 415 N. Fourth Ave. Free admission.*

★**"Nature Nerds Book Club": Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation.** All invited to celebrate the end of summer by sharing favorite outdoor memories and reading aloud from Barbara Kingsolver's novel *Prodigal Summer. 5:30–6:30 p.m., Natural Area Preservation office, 3875 E. Huron River Dr. Free, preregistration required at tinyurl.com/a2parksrec or (734) 794–6250. epotter@a2gov.org.*

★**"The Collected Schizophrenias": Ann Arbor District Library Mental Wellness Book Club.** All invited to join a discussion of San Francisco–based writer and advocate Esmé Weijun Wang's 2019 collection of essays that explores her experience with schizoaffective disorder. Presented in partnership with the National Alliance on Mental Illness Washtenaw County. *6–7:30 p.m., AADL Downtown, 4th fl. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**"End-of-Summer Circle Singing Jam": Ann Arbor Friends Meeting House.** Vocalists Kath Weider, Lori Fithian, Abby Alwin, and Irene Soléa lead the audience for a night of songs, song prayers, chants, and improvisational group "Circle Songs" inspired by the work of Bobby McFerrin and his Voicestra. A benefit for We the People Opportunity Farm. *6:30–8:30 p.m., 1420 Hill. $10–$20 suggested donation. (313) 461–9000, kathweidermusic@gmail.com.*

★**"The Smallest Mistake We Call Human": Literati Bookstore** Poet Isaac Pickell discusses his new collection of poems exploring the tensions between Blackness and Jewishness, loss and inheritance, being seen and being claimed. Also, readings by poet Tommye Blount and others. *6:30 p.m., Literati, 124 E. Washington. Free. (734) 585–5567.*

★**"Salty Summer Sounds Live Music Series": Saline Main Street.** See 6 Thursday. Tonight: **The Favorites,** a local classic rock 'n' roll dance band. 7–9 p.m.

"Comedy Jamm": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 6 Thursday. 7:15 p.m.

★**Dance Showcase: Shape//Matter.** *Aug. 27 & 28.* Outdoor tap, tango, hip-hop, and modern dance performances by regional dance troupes TBA. *8 p.m., Liberty Plaza, E. Liberty at S. Division. Free. shapemattershowcas.wixsite.com/shapematter.*

28 FRIDAY

★**"AADL World Famous Trivia": Ann Arbor District Library.** AADL staffers lead 2 rounds of trivia aimed at adults. Prizes. *5:30–7:30 p.m., AADL Westgate. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**"Make-a-Zine Night": All Hands Active.** All levels of zine makers, from beginner to experienced, invited to make their own homemade booklet to take home. Only simple instructions provided, but supplies available. *6–8 p.m., basement of 255 E. Liberty, ste. 225. Preregistration requested at meetup.com/allhandsactive/events. Free; donations welcome. info@allhandsactive.org.*

★**"Fireside Fun": Leslie Science & Nature Center.** All invited to sit around a campfire, roast marshmallows, and swap stories. If you like, bring outdoor games, s'mores fixings (roasting utensils provided), and camping chairs. Rain or shine, so dress for the weather. *6:30–8:30 p.m. Free. (734) 997–1553, lesliesnc.org.*

★**Music in the Park: Dexter Area Chamber of Commerce.** See 14 Friday. Tonight: **Salmagundi,** local horn-powered Motown/Memphis soul tribute band featuring vocalist Sheila Rhodes. 6:30–9 p.m.

★**"Catching Fireflies" Artist Talk: Ann Arbor Art Center.** Artists and sisters DaJaniere and Gyona Rice discuss their artistic practice, inspiration, and work. The two have an exhibit at the A2AC this month (see Galleries). *7–8:30 p.m., 117 W. Liberty. Free. (734) 994–8004.*

★**John E. Lawrence Summer Jazz Concert Series.** See 7 Friday. Tonight: an R&B jazz fusion ensemble led by veteran South African singer-guitarist **Jonathan Butler.** 7 p.m.

Sal Demilio: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *Aug. 28 & 29.* Veteran Detroit comic who blends observational humor with self-deprecating commentary about his Italian American family, getting thrown out of school, and dealing with modern technology. Opening act TBA. *7:15 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.) & 9:45 p.m. (Sat.), 212 S. Fourth Ave. $20 at aacomedy.com & (if available) at the door. (734) 996–9080.*

"Light in the Darkness": Beyond Choir. EMU choral director Brandon Johnson conducts this local professional vocal ensemble in a program focused on themes of eternal light, awakening, and hope, featuring Lauridsen's *Lux Aeterna,* Boykin's *Holding the Light,* and Bach's *Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme* (BWV 140), also known as *Sleepers Awake. 7:30–9 p.m., EMU Honors College, 511 W. Forest Ave., Ypsi. Tickets $20 (seniors, military, & first responders, $18; students, $12) at beyondchoir.org & at the door. (734) 203–0753, info@beyondchoir.org.*

"Emma's Wedding(s)": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 8 p.m.

"Tree Town Stand-up Showcase": Hear.Say Brewing + Theater. Performances by 6 area stand-up comics TBA. *9:30–10:30 p.m., 2350 W. Liberty. $15 in advance at tinyurl.com/a2treetownstandup & (if available) at the door.*

29 SATURDAY

"Summer Sizzler": Bodies Race Company. Chip-timed 5K, 10K, and 15K. Also, a 1-mile fun run and kid's dash. T-shirt & medal with all entries. Treats. Packet pickup begins at 5:30 a.m. *6:55–10 a.m., Rolling Hills Water Park, 7660 Stony Creek. $22 (1 mile), $38 (5K, 10K, & 15K), & $17 (kids age 12 & under for any event) in advance only at tinyurl.com/a2summersizzler-run. Discounts for volunteers. Register by Aug. 13 to guarantee a T-shirt. support@bodiesrc.com.*

"Critters Up Close!": Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum. *Aug. 29 & 30.* Leslie Science & Nature Center staff show live animals TBA. Also, animal-oriented hands-on activities for all ages. *Noon–3 p.m., 220 E. Ann. $16 museum admission (babies under 2, free). (734) 995–9439, discoverscienceandnature.org/aahom.*

★**Monitor Base Ball Club of Chelsea vs. Continental Base Ball Club of Kalamazoo.** This 15-year-old club plays baseball using 1860s-era rules against similar teams from around the region. Today, they play Kalamazoo's 13-year-old club, a revival of a club first founded in 1860. *1 p.m., Timbertown Park, Sibley (west off Main north of downtown), Chelsea. Free. (248) 930–6130, chelseamonitorbbc@gmail.com, chelseamonitors.com.*

Arabian Nights Festival. Traditional Arabian dance performances, traditional Arab music on the tabla & the oud and other instruments, and dancing to music spun by a DJ. Also, cultural stations feature henna art, calligraphy, and more. Arabian food and crafts for sale. Kids play area. Parent or guardian must accompany kids 13 & under. *2–7 p.m., 2\|42 Community Center, 648 S. Wagner. $20 (children under 5, free) at tinyurl.com/a2arabiannights26 & (if not sold out) via card at the door.*

★**DJ Workshop: Ann Arbor District Library.** A chance for teens and adults to learn the basics of mixing & beat-matching and get hands-on experience with industry-standard equipment. *2–3:30 p.m., AADL Downtown, 4th fl. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

"Lift Off: Student Showcase": Aviary Aerial & Circus Arts. Students and instructors from this local school showcase dance, pole dance, burlesque, aerial dance, and circus act routines. Parental discretion advised. Doors open at 2 p.m. *2–4:30 p.m., Aviary Studio, 2875 Boardwalk, ste. A. Tickets $15 in advance at a2aviary.com/upcoming-shows. Preregistration required. contact@a2aviary.com.*

"Emma's Wedding(s)": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 3 & 8 p.m.

German Park Picnic. Old-fashioned German dinner served à la carte (approximately $10–$15) with wine, beer, pop, water, and coffee for sale. Kid-friendly options (hot dogs, hamburgers) also available. Dancing to German polkas and other European dance music by **Tommy Schober & the Sound of Sorgenbrecher,** a band known for its high-energy performances. *4–11 p.m. (no admission after 9 p.m.), 5549 Pontiac Tr. Entry $10 cash only (children 12 & under, free). No one under 21 admitted without parent or legal guardian. (734) 769–0048, germanpark.org.*

★**Know Obstacles Open Mic & Comedy Hour: Oz's Music Environment.** Performers of all abilities invited to play instruments, sing songs, and tell jokes with members of this band comprised of kids and adults with special needs. Hosted by Oz's owner Steve Osborn. Spectators welcome. *4–5 p.m., 1922 Packard. Free; donations accepted. (734) 662–8283.*

"Nude Noir": Marquee Arts. An evening of live performance and visual art celebrating the human form. Attendees are invited to move freely between aerialist dance and drag performances in the main auditorium and intimate burlesque performances in the screening room. Also, in the lobby and throughout the venue, performances by dancers and contortionists, as well as body painting, live figure drawing, and an exhibition of art. *6 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets $65–$100 in advance at (800) 745–3000, marquee-arts.org/live-events & (if available) at the door.*

"Go4Garrett's Space": Garrett's Space Fundraiser. Light dinner, drinks, speakers, a silent auction, and performances TBA in a benefit for this Ann Arbor–based mental health nonprofit for adults age 18–28. Also, mindfulness workshops, including meditation and sound bath sessions. *6–9 p.m., WCC Morris Lawrence Bldg., Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. $100 (age 29 & up), $25 (ages 18–28), & $10 (high school students), or pay what you can. Registration required at garrettsspace.org/go4garrettsspace. info@garrettsspace.org.*

Sal Demilio: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 28 Friday. 7:15 & 9:45 p.m.

30 SUNDAY

"Unified Dexter 5K": U-M Adaptive Sports & Fitness AdaptX. All invited to run, walk, row, or roll 5K or 1 mile on a marked course. The event raises funds for AdaptX education, research, and more. *10 a.m., Hudson Mills Metropark, 8801 North Territorial, Dexter. $30, preregistration required at runsignup.com/race/mi/dexter/unified5kdexter. Metroparks pass or $10 vehicle entry fee required.*

★**Ypsi Pride.** Features drag performances, family activities, food vendors, and more. *Noon–10 p.m., Depot Town, Ypsi. Free. facebook.com/ypsipride.*

★**"Summer Game 2026 Game Over Gala!": Ann Arbor District Library.** Activities for AADL Summer Game players, along with button making, face painting, and coloring. Light refreshments. *Noon–4 p.m., AADL Downtown. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**"Different Eras: A Historical Fiction Book Club": Booksweet Bookshop.** All invited to discuss ***Hamnet,*** Maggie O'Farrell's acclaimed 2021 historical novel based on the family life of William Shakespeare. *Noon–1 p.m., Courtyard Shops, 1729 Plymouth Rd. Free. Preregistration requested at shopbooksweet.com.*

"Emma's Wedding(s)": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Saturday. 2 p.m.

★**Apples & Honey Fall Festival: Jewish Community Center.** All invited to this popular annual afternoon of entertainment, cultural activities, and information about Jewish life in celebration of Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, featuring workshops, music & dance lessons, and displays from local Jewish organizations and vendors. Also, kids activities, food for sale, and a **sidewalk chalk demonstration** by David Zinn. The event's title derives from the custom of dipping an apple in honey and saying a prayer for a sweet new year. *2–5 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow. Free. Preregistration required at jlive.app/events/14841. (734) 971–0990.*

"Dance Day": Terpsichore Collective Fundraiser. This local professional contemporary dance troupe opens up its rehearsal for a new work by artistic director and choreographer Aimee McDonald, *Gateway to Enough* (to be performed in October), followed by a chance to chat with the dancers and graze on appetizers. Preceded by an open community **dance class** (3–4 p.m.) taught by Kari Becker. *4:15–6 p.m., Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron St., Ypsi. $20 or more donation, in advance at terpsichorecollective.com, & (if available) at the door.*

Full Moon Kirtan: Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth. Trevor Eller leads a local ensemble of Yoga and Bhakti practitioners in this traditional devotional call-and-response music based on Hindu texts and the writings of poet-saints. Preceded by a potluck dinner and a talk by Chicago-based yogi Swami Sahajananda. *7:15–9 p.m., 704 Airport Blvd., ste. 1. $5 suggested donation. (734) 327–0270.*

31 MONDAY

★**"Joyful Movement: Zumba Party": Ann Arbor District Library.** Adults & teens invited to try a session of Zumba, the popular Latin-inspired dance fitness craze that incorporates salsa, cumbia, and reggaeton dance techniques. Led by local Zumba instructor Kadesha Baker. *6–7 p.m., AADL Pittsfield. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

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NEW LISTING – MATTHAEI FARMS – This custom-built 6-bedroom, 6 ½-bath home by Henry Landau is truly one of the landmark homes of the area and is simply breathtaking at every turn. The home rests on a 2.65 acre parcel backing to Flemming Creek and features a pond and inground pool. The interior features expansive rooms, luxury finishes, and a floor plan that is adaptable to any stage of life. $2,500,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

ANN ARBOR – This 5-Bedroom, 4½-Bathroom home is truly one of finest properties you will see. The home has been perfectly updated to present one of the true Landmark Homes in the area. Every detail is perfect including a gorgeous kitchen, light filled living and family rooms, exceptional primary bedroom suite with new bath, recently finished lower level, and backyard oasis with inground pool. $2,295,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

ANN ARBOR HILLS – Build this custom with Cranbrook or purchase the lot for $365,000 and use your builder to create a brand new home in Ann Arbor's most desired neighborhood. This .92 acre site is one of the few remaining unbuilt lots in Ann Arbor Hills and features great privacy and mature trees. You will love the proximately to all UM campus locations. $1,999,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

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NEW LISTING – KING SCHOOL – Spacious 5-bedroom, 3 ½-bath custom-built home on a private wooded lot located in one of Ann Arbor's most desired neighborhoods. The home is minutes to all UM Campus locations and all hospitals. Interior highlights include a two-story great room, custom kitchen with granite counters, luxury main floor primary bedroom, and finished walk out basement. $1,195,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – KING SCHOOL – This custom-built 4-bedroom, 3 ½-bath ranch by Durbin rests on a peaceful, wooded 1.1 acre site in Superior Township. The setting is serene and private with great landscaping, large deck, and screened porch. The interior includes a large great room with fireplace, spacious kitchen, main floor primary bedroom, and finished walkout basement. $849,900 **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

CENTENNIAL PARK – This fabulous 4-bedroom, 2 ½-bath home is walking distance to Harvest Elementary and Saline High School in one of the area's most highly desired neighborhoods. This home features a great lot with mature trees and patio. Interior highlights include an oversized kitchen with granite, two story family room with fireplace and back stair, main floor office, and wonderful primary bedroom suite. $799,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – DOWNTOWN CONDO – This like-new 2-bedroom, 2-bath one level condo in The Gallery is perfectly located on the south end of Main Street and a short walk to Michigan Stadium. The home is loaded with all the features and décor you've been hoping for. Highlights include a white kitchen with quartz counter, open concept living room, luxury primary bedroom suite and 2nd bedroom and bath. $749,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

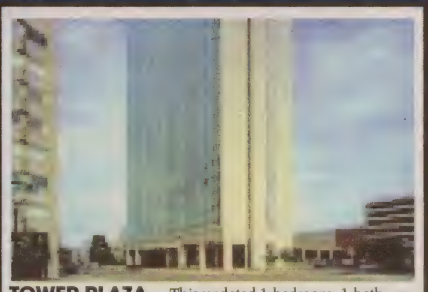
NE ANN ARBOR CONDO – Rare Find! This 3-Bedroom, 2 ½-Bath ranch style, detached condo has one of the most spectacular waterfront settings you will see. This unit is located just minutes from all UM campus and hospital locations. Interior highlights include great room with vaulted ceiling, updated kitchen with oversized eating space, main level primary bedroom suite, and finished walkout basement. $749,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

SALINE – This completely remodeled 3-Bedroom, 2½-Bathroom Ranch rests on 4.7 acres of the prettiest land you will see. The land features great privacy, expansive lawn, and a mature forest with trails. The home is gorgeous and features an updated kitchen with quartz counters, oversized family room with vaulted ceiling and fireplace, and primary bedroom suite. $699,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

HIGHPOINTE AT STONEBRIDGE – Fabulous 3-Bedroom, 3-Bathroom detached Ranch condo in one of the area's most desired neighborhoods. The highlights include all hardwood floor on the main level, Great Room with vaulted ceiling and fireplace, expansive white kitchen with granite, screened porch with high vaulted ceiling, luxury primary bedroom suite, and full finished basement. $699,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

DEXTER – This 4-Bedroom, 2-Bathroom, 3 Half-Bath home backs to the Border-to-Border trail. You will love the lifestyle available from this nicely updated home with trail access and short walk to the Huron River and Parks. The property features almost two acres of mature trees and beautiful gardens. The home includes a wrap around porch, large living room, primary suite with attached bath, and finished walkout basement. $669,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NORTH OAKS – Like new, 3-Bedroom, 2 ½-Bath Villa in Northeast Ann Arbor's most sought after condo community. You love living just minutes from Downtown Ann Arbor, NCRC, and all hospital locations. This unit is move-in condition and features a stuning white kitchen with quartz counters, open concept Great Room with vaulted ceiling, main floor primary bedroom suite, and upper level loft with two additional bedrooms. $649,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



TOWER PLAZA – This updated 1-bedroom, 1-bath condo on the 22 floor provides incredible views of Ann Arbor and is one block from UM campus. Your student will love having their private space with close proximately to campus. The unit includes an updated kitchen, living room with tons of natural light, bedroom and bath. $279,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

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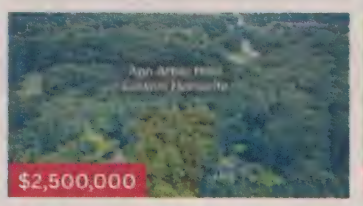

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Matt Miller - 734-476-4869

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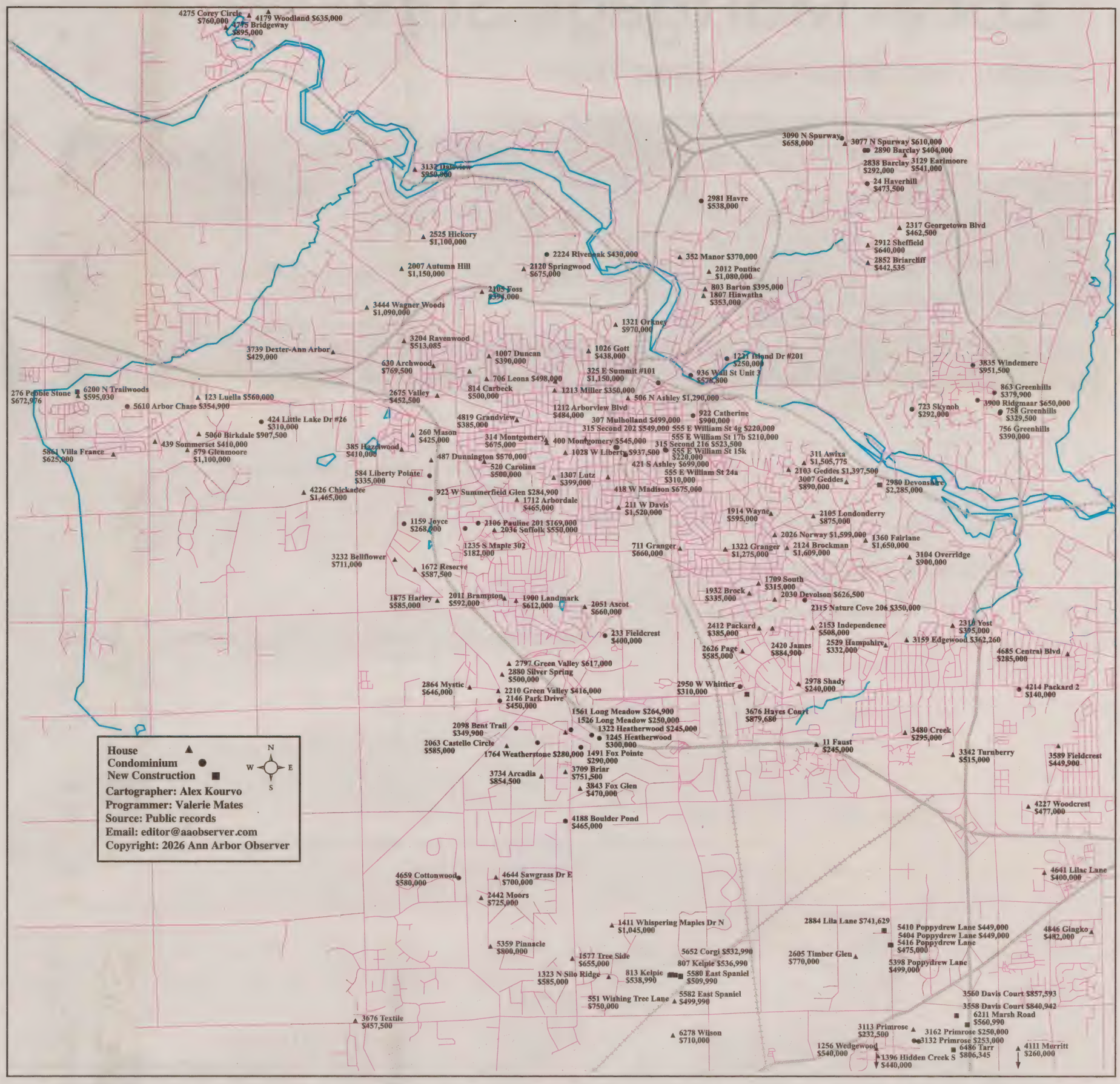
June 2026 Home Sales Map



A place to go: Sometimes the smallest rooms make the biggest impression. 314 Montgomery, which sold for $675,000, has refinished hardwood floors, a refreshed interior, and a new back porch. But the shining star of the remodeled 1,243-square-foot home is the newly added bathroom off the primary bedroom that completely transformed the layout. An existing bathroom and powder room were also updated. In a neighborhood where older homes often come with just one bathroom, the updates brought modern convenience to this 1929 Craftsman.

Cultivated appeal: It's easy to compare kitchens and square footage, but gardens are trickier. Three recent sales offer three answers to what makes a yard appealing. At 385 Hazelwood, which sold for $410,000, a mature perennial garden mixes irises, hostas, ornamental grasses, and pollinator-friendly plants, promising blooms (and bees) all summer. The yard at 2980 Devonshire, which sold for $2.285 million, pairs professionally maintained landscaping with a meandering creek, towering oaks, and brick paths winding past quiet garden vignettes—decorative groupings of plants and ornaments. And at 4775 Bridgeway, which sold for $895,000, a Japanese-style Zen garden is tucked close to the house, while the Trex deck leads to an expansive lawn and frontage on Bridgeway Lake.

Work in progress: The listing for 1307 Lutz offers a glimpse of a remodel paused mid-project. When the 3-bedroom, 1-bath, 1,192-square-foot home went on sale, it had multiple renovation projects in progress: from unfinished walls to exposed beams, and even some supplies left on-site. Even so, its desirable location and classic 1940s bones helped it sell for $399,000.

Dig These Digs: The custom contemporary at 3444 Wagner Woods is designed to enjoy every moment of Michigan's short summers. Set on a tree-filled acre bordering the Botsford Preserve, it has a three-level deck, a screened-in porch, a hot tub, and a koi pond, making the outdoors feel like another room of the house. Inside, a twenty-four-foot foyer creates a dramatic first impression, while a Motawi tile kitchen backsplash adds a distinctly Ann Arbor touch. The 4-bedroom, 3.5-bath, 3,437-square-foot home sold for $1.09 million, but a Michigan summer is priceless.

—Alex Kourvo

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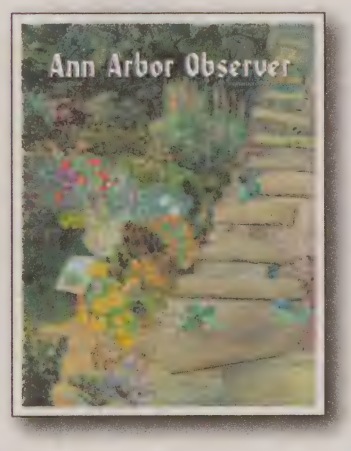
Thanks also to readers who responded to our request for **FREE** subscription confirmations.

Congratulations to the lucky winners of our July drawing!

The following readers won a **$25 gift certificate** to their choice of any business advertising in the Observer.

July winners: Michael C. and Daria R.



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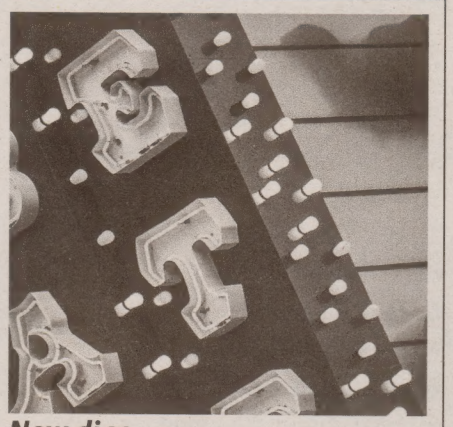
Contests

i spy

by Sally Bjork



New digs

July's I Spy "depicts a segment of the Liberty Plaza mural at the corner of E. Liberty and S. Division," says Ivana Tullett. It's "near the Kempf House Museum," adds Dave Bicknell. The mural was "made by Orlando muralist Christian Stanley," says Cathy Chow. The Ann Arbor Downtown Development Authority partnered with the Parks Department and the Ann Arbor Art Center to hire award-winning C. Stanley Creative for the first permanent installation of the DDA's Elevate program to enhance public spaces.

The artist "drew his inspiration from Ann Arbor park life," says David Karl, who quotes Stanley: "My goal is to introduce a sense of tranquility to the Plaza through a bright, organized design that balances vibrancy and serenity." As described by the DDA, the mural "incorporates geometric shapes that flow horizontally to fill the unique wall spaces. … The design brings a unifying theme to the various levels and pockets of the plaza." Stanley incorporated native plants and wildflowers, nods to the Huron River, and references to concerts and performances held in the park, which, as he says, "celebrates Ann Arbor's natural and cultural identity."

"The 'summertime' clue is in reference to the Sonic Lunch Summer Concert Series which has been held [at Liberty Plaza] since 2008," writes Dave Bicknell. "I knew something was different at Liberty Plaza when I went to see Lindsay Lou at Sonic Lunch," says Ann Bieneman. "Those murals are definitely new since last time I went to Sonic Lunch … and, as it turns out, memorable!"

We received fourteen correct entries. Our randomly selected winner, Denise Schlotfeldt, will enjoy her $25 gift certificate at the Michigan Theater.

fake ad

by Jay Forstner

UOMONUOVO
What if organizing your closet doesn't spark joy in you?
What if you don't find life-changing magic in tidying up?
WHAT IF YOU'RE A MAN?
Your PERSONAL UOMONUOVO COACH will simplify your life in a traditional masculine way.
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We had a whole thing already typed up for this month. It was going to be the usual, with the name of the Fake Ad (Uomonuovo), the page number it appeared on in the July issue (61), and the number of entries we received (156).

We were going to include clever comments from Monet Tiedemann ("There probably could be a market for Uomonuovo if it weren't the Fake Ad") and Bryan Magnuson ("Interesting parody of a disturbing slice of the zeitgeist"), not to mention the several Fake Adders who connected "Uomonuovo" to Mussolini and the ever-erudite Donna Wessel Walker who writes, "The fascist connections with that word & idea are a little unnerving, I gotta say."

But then we received this email after the deadline and just had to include it: "Hello! This is Niko again. (I got a shout out before when I was 8, and now I'm 9.) Last summer I moved to Utah, but me and my family came back on a vacation because we love it here. I still like the Fake Ad so I decided to try. I decided it was probably the uomonuovo on page 61 because it is really sussy and also I learned that nouovo means new in Portuguese, so the name Newman would fit very well."

I mean, we *had to* include that, right? Especially since we now know the word "sussy."

Our winner, Christian Katic, is taking a gift certificate to Zingerman's.

Want to play too? Use the I Spy image and hint to identify the Ann Arbor location. Find the Fake Ad hidden in this issue (hint: the ad always contains the last name of the previous month's winner in some form). Send your entries to backpage@aaobserver.com or PO Box 1187, AA 48106. All correct entries received by **noon, August 10,** will be eligible for our random drawings. Winners receive $25 gift certificates to any business advertising in this issue. Want more Fake Ad and I Spy goodness? Order *The Fake Ad Book* and *I Spy: Ann Arbor Architecture* at annarborobserver.com/books.

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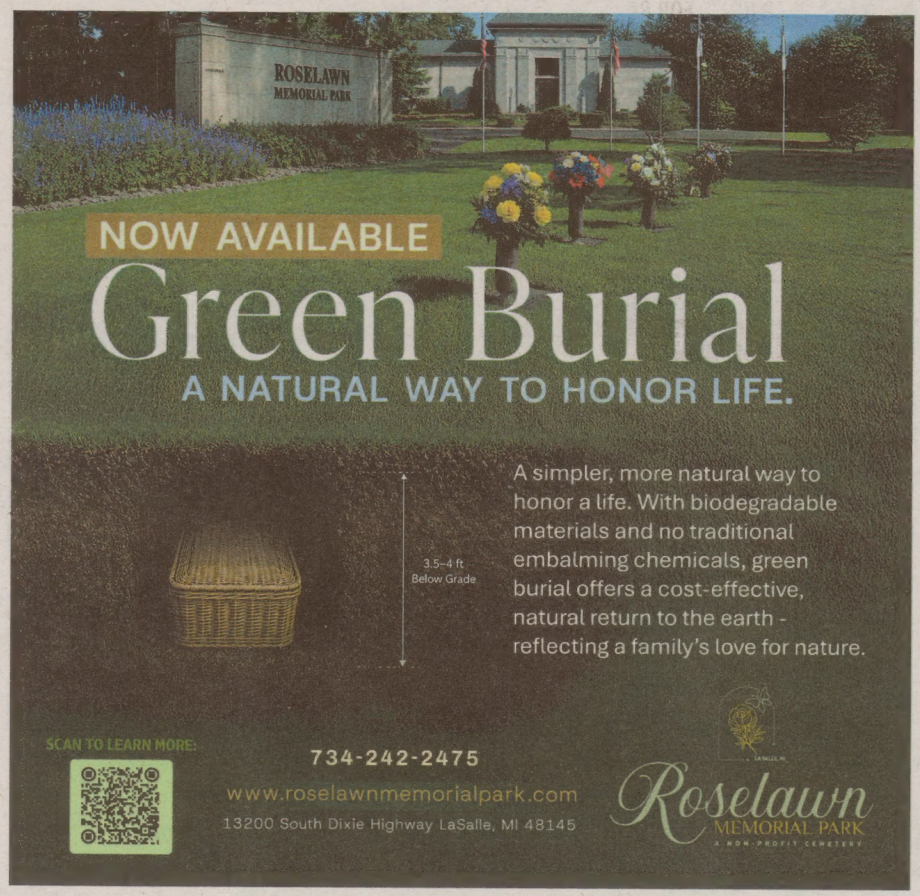
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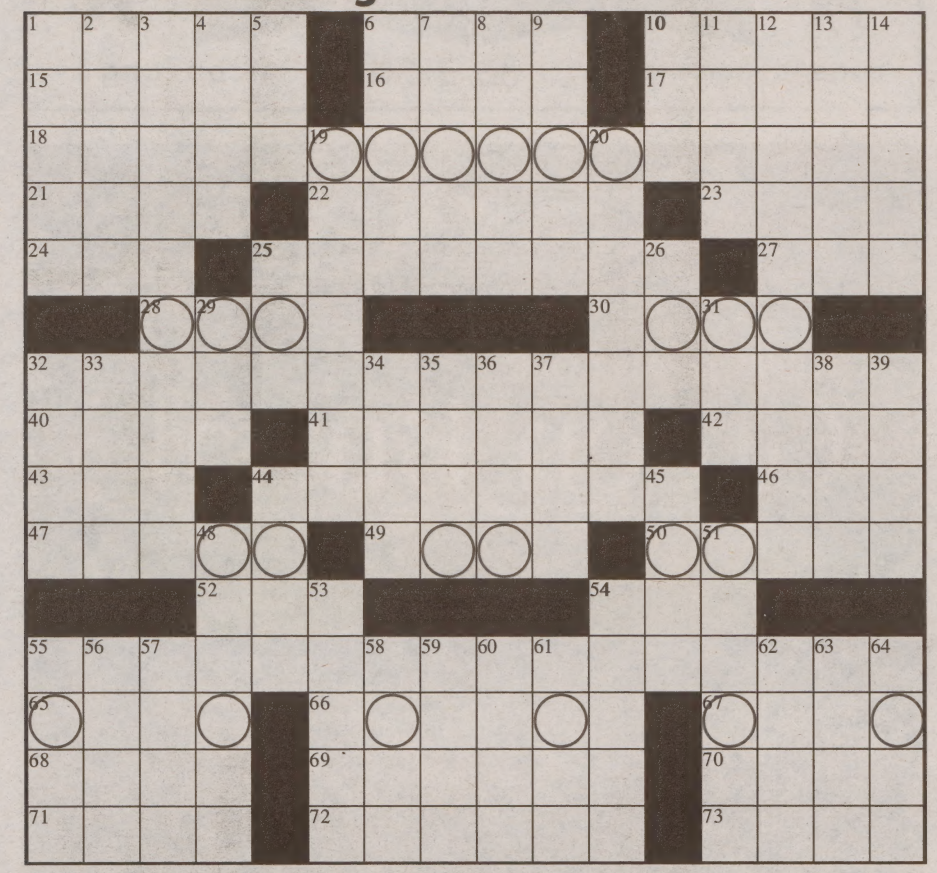

ACROSS

1 One thing over another
6 Associate of Crackle and Pop
10 Prepare a turkey
15 Result of 1/0
16 Snakelike fish
17 Frozen food ____
18 Posting, perhaps
21 Opiate of the masses, in literature
22 Change
23 Word with bag or bike
24 Chemical suffix
25 Huge
27 Healing Hands staff
28 Punch
30 Analog clock feature
32 Where some doctors learn how to perform pet scans
40 Robert of *The Sopranos*
41 Frequent a diner
42 Mine, in Québec
43 It's thinner in Denver
44 Gilligan's vessel
46 *Saturday Night Live* alumna Gasteyer
47 Get one in the loop
49 Juul, e.g.
50 One may be found at the end of a 17-Across
52 ____ mode
54 Hollywood FX
55 Campus Corner, for one
65 "Scram!"
66 Oblong treat
67 Brother of Cain
68 "____ out?"
69 Find common ground
70 Little bite
71 Juniors
72 Stud
73 Himalayan cryptid

DOWN

1 One of the three Rs of sustainability
2 Kindle illegally
3 Some college divisions
4 The Gaels of the NCAA
5 Dot follower
6 Capital of South Korea
7 Legendary dance club on Liberty
8 Dr. Seuss or Mark Twain
9 Exams for H.S. sophomores
10 Namesake of a long-established A2 clothing store
11 0-0, e.g.
12 J. Jay, H. Kissinger, or M. Albright
13 Show romantic interest, in a way
14 ___ of Strength (Festivus tradition)
19 Appalachian Range
20 Results in
25 Fogerty's group, for short
26 Driver's requirement: Abbr.
29 Poetic contraction
31 "Now I see!"
32 Small bottle
33 Director Kazan
34 Word with drop or call
35 Symptom follower
36 Commercial ending with Pasta
37 Egg foo ____
38 A Chaplin
39 One wearing hot pants?
44 Filleted fish
45 Moves like a happy dog's tail
48 Relishes
51 Tedious recital
53 End of ____
54 Dwarf planet between Mars and Jupiter
55 Dramas set in Miami, Vegas, and NY
56 Mr. Bill catchphrase
57 When all of the hands are up
58 Finished the cake
59 London greeting
60 Palindromic bread
61 Lead-in to bank
62 Orchestral woodwind
63 Take it easy
64 K thru 12

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minor LANDMARKS OF ANN ARBOR

by John Tebeau
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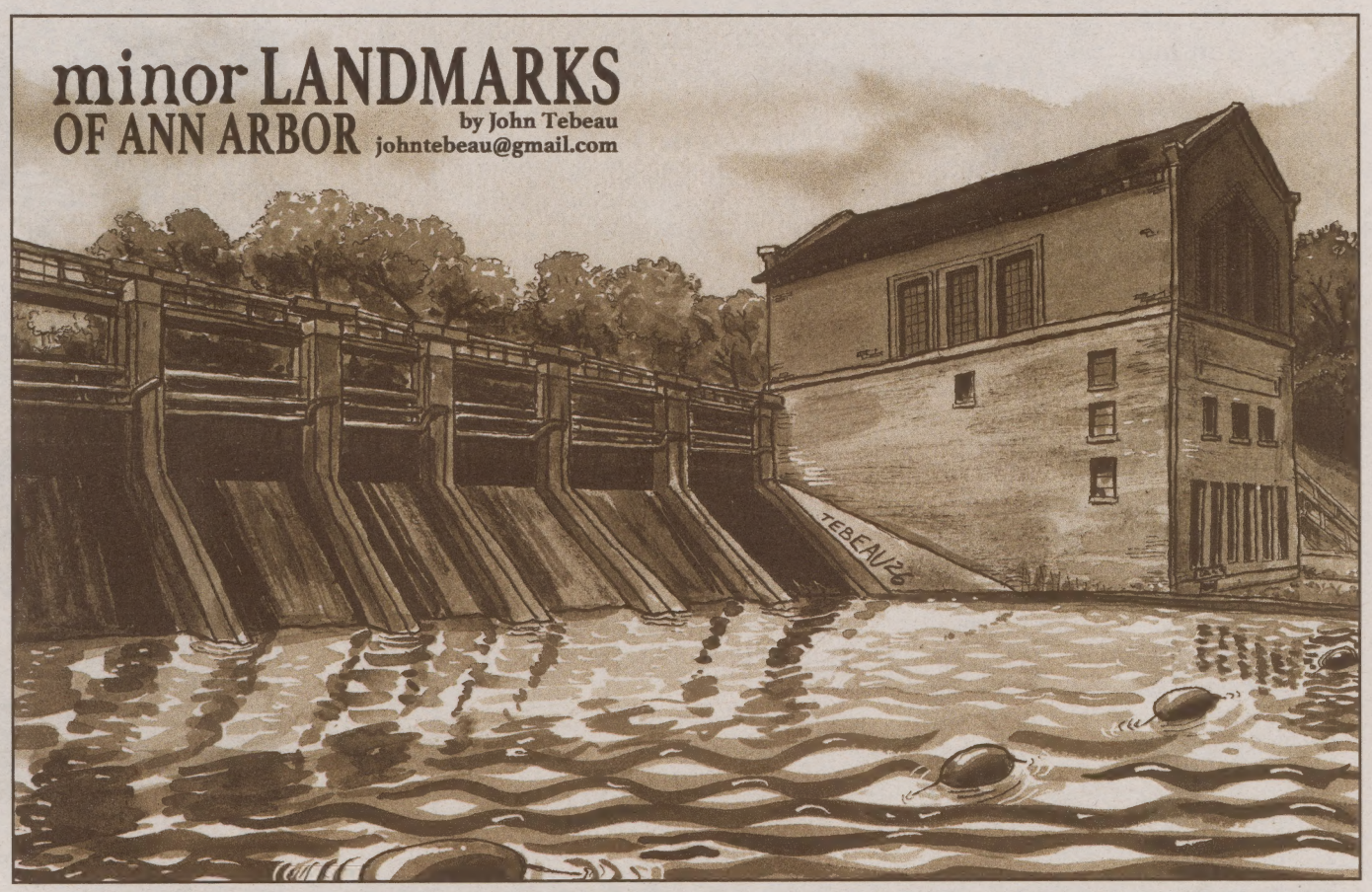

Hidden off Huron River Dr. behind trees and a pumping station, Barton Dam is easy to overlook. But it's been there since 1912, quietly generating clean electricity, creating Barton Pond, helping supply the city's drinking water, and giving rise to the surrounding ninety-eight-acre Barton Nature Area. It's remarkable that some of Ann Arbor's best scenery doubles as hardworking infrastructure.

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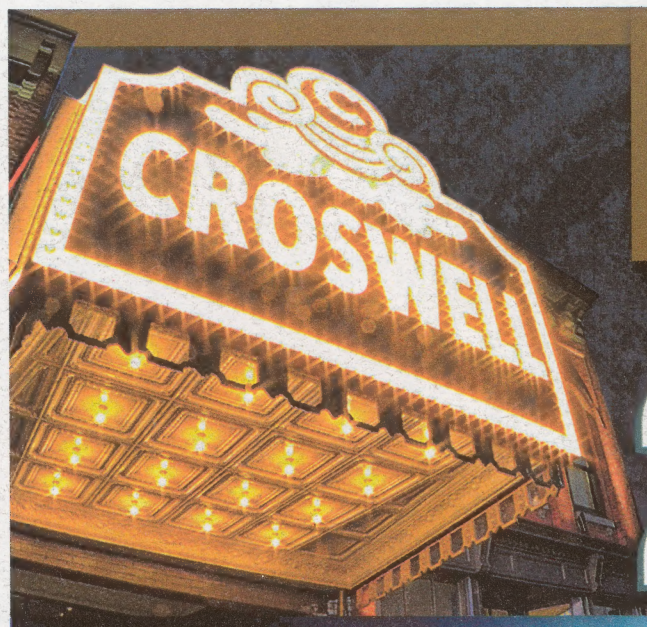

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